ANNUAL REPORT
TOWN OF EASTON
2005

Easton's Rockery is perhaps one of the town's least understood yet nationally important historical features. Designed in 1882 by nationally renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, the site we all call "the Rockery" was more accurately designated as the Memorial Cairn by its designer.

Hired by the Ames Family, Olmsted's task was to resolve the dramatic grade differences in front of Memorial Hall at Lincoln and Main Streets by developing a significant landscape feature for the village of North Easton. His concept for the Cairn was as a Civil War memorial "to all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors going out from North Easton," the cairn being an ancient form of memorialization. In addition it was to look like "an old warlike bastion half obscured by drapery of peace in the form of …plants." This was to be a complex and symbolic piece of landscape design by one of the nation's first and foremost landscape designers.

Olmsted designed the structure, but he did not supervise its construction. Although his goal was a feature in harmony with the environment with its natural-looking piled boulders overgrown by plantings, he never intended the site to quickly become the overgrown jumble of loose stones it quickly became. Lack of maintenance led to loss of original plantings, overgrown weeds, and loosening stones. It was here that the term "Rockery" was coined and stuck. As Olmsted noted in 1887, "To make it extremely ridiculous, it was only necessary that it should fall into the unfortunate courses that it since has which provoked the name it now has of the 'Rockery.'" Today we don't intend the negative connotation the name originally carried.

Over the years the site fell into further decline. In the 1947 the Ames family, who owned the site until its transfer to the town in 1970s, removed much of the Eastern side of the cairn because it had become a hazard. This work was part never-completed effort to reconfigure the site into a WWII memorial. This change left the odd looking, truncated eastern end that remains today. A future phase of restoration will reconstruct this major loss.

In 1998 the Easton Historical Commission began to develop a multi-phase master plan for the site. Since that time two phases of restoration have been completed, with the goal to halt and reverse the site's deterioration and begin to restore the Rockery to Olmsted's original design intent. The first phase of work was completed in fall 2003 and the second phase in fall 2005. The contractor for both phases was the Easton firm Folan Waterproofing & Construction Company. Additional work including the reconstruction of the eastern end to its full height await additional funding.

The Easton Historical Commission wishes to thank many supporters of this project including:

For funding master planning and phase 1:
- The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (now the Department of Conservation and Recreation)
- The National Park Service
- The citizens of Easton
- Dr. Robert Misiewicz

For funding phase 2:
- The Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Project Fund
- The citizens of Easton through the Community Preservation Act

For Assistance in ongoing site maintenance:
- The Easton Garden Club
- Bare Lawn Essentials, who has donated 2 years of site maintenance

This report is dedicated to the many volunteers and employees, past and present, whose service to the community exemplifies dedication and pride

TOWN OF EASTON
www.easton.ma.us

Incorporated	1725
Area of Town	29.04 Square Miles
Population	22,299 (2000 Federal Census) 23,242 (2005 Town Census)
Form of Government	Town Meeting
Total Assessed Real and Personal Property Valuation as of January 1, 2005	$2,935,473,220
Town Meeting (The by-law regarding Annual Town Meeting was changed at the Special Town Meeting held on 6/4/001)	Third Monday in May
Town Election (The by-law regarding Annual Town Election was changed at the Special Town Meeting held on 10/30/00)	Fourth Tuesday in April

REPRESENTATIVES FOR EASTON

United States Senators

John F. Kerry — Edward M. Kennedy

Representative in Congress

Ninth Congressional District — Stephen F. Lynch, Boston

State Senators

Second Plymouth & Bristol District (Pcts. 1,2)	Robert S. Creedon, Jr., Brockton
Norfolk, Bristol & Plymouth District (Pcts. 3, 4, 5, 6)	Brian A. Joyce, Milton

Representatives in General Court

Eleventh Plymouth District (Pcts. 1, 2, 4, 5)	Geraldine Creedon, Brockton
Eighth Plymouth District (Pct. 6)	David L. Flynn, Bridgewater
Tenth Plymouth District (Pct. 3)	Christine E. Canavan, Brockton

Governor's Councillor

Second District (Pcts. 3, 4, 5, 6)	Kelly A. Timilty, Boston
Fourth District (Pcts. 1,2)	Christopher A. Iannella, Jr., Boston

TOWN OF EASTON ELECTED OFFICERS:

	TERM EXPIRES
MODERATOR	
Richard C. Dailey	2006
SELECTMEN	
Irwin M. Cohen	2008
Charles P. King	2007
Colleen A. Less	2007
John S. Haederle	2006
Colleen A. Corona	2006
ASSESSORS	
Gerald J. Noonan	2008
Wallace M. Fulcher	2007
Shaun Fitzgerald	2006
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	
William P. Braun	2008
Caroline S. O'Neill	2008
Jane Pike Benton	2007
Dawn Marie Boynton	2007
Ellen Barlow Boyajian	2006
BOARD OF HEALTH	
Gilbert A. Heino	2008
Robert J. Kane	2007
Roger M. Kligler	2006
HOUSING AUTHORITY	
June H. Brousseau	2010
Michael J. Malloy	2008
Barbara Dolloff-Grattan (Resigned)	2007
Sandra L. Conant	2006
Dennis Sheedy (Appointed)	2006
Vacancy (St Mmbr)	
FINANCE COMMITTEE	
Stephen A. Drown	2008
Robert L. Hicks	2008
Brian P. Nagle	2008
Richard Coose	2007
Patrick A. Goodman	2007
Donna A. Lopolito	2007
Leonard J. Berkowitz	2006
Mark S. Carpentier	2006
Jonathan Pike (Appointed)	2006
REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE	
Ralph Armstead (Resigned)	2006
Joshua Jacobs (Apptd. & Resigned)	2006
Ralph Armstead (Appointed)	2006

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Town Administrator	Martha L. White
Animal Control Officer	John D. Melin
Animal Control Officer Asst.	Elizabeth J. DeRosa
Animal Inspector, Milk Inspector	John D. Melin
Assessor, Assistant	Anne M. Carney
Board of Health Director	Wade D. Saucier
Building Inspector, Zoning Enforcement, ADA Coordinator	D. Mark Trivett
Council on Aging Director	Dolores M. Kent
DPW Director	Wayne P. Southworth
Fire Chief	Thomas F. Stone
Library Executive Director	Annalee M. Bundy
Moderator, Deputy	John A. Keach, Jr.
Moderator, Deputy	John F. Creedon
Moderator, Deputy	Carla A. Goodwin
Moderator, Deputy	Michael G. Sites
Plumbing & Gas Inspector	Robert Govey
Plumbing & Gas Inspector, Asst.	Barton R. Carlson
Police Chief	Thomas F. Kominsky
School Superintendent	William J. Simmons, Ed.D., J.D.
School Superintendent, Adm. Asst.	Michael Green, Ed. D.
School, Director of Curriculum	Dr. Nancy Sullivan
Town Accountant	Wendy V. Nightingale
Town Clerk	Janet Andrus Linehan
Town Clerk Emeritus	Esther C. Anderson
Town Clerk, Assistant	Marie A. Graca
Town Counsel	Brackett & Lucas
Town Planner	Marc R. Rousseau
Treasurer and Collector	Teresa DeSilva
Treasurer and Collector, Asst.	Linda Howard
Veterans Agent	Stephen F. Nolan, III
Water Division Superintendent	John J. Marsh
Wiring Inspector	Kevin Greiner
Wiring Inspector, Asst.	John F. Amorim

APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

(In Alphabetical Order)	TERM EXP.
BOARD OF APPEALS	
John Tupper	2010
Walter Mirrione	2009
Thomas A. Pursley	2008
August Gangi	2007
Stephen Pinzari	2006
Christopher J. Pike, Alternate	2007
Fred Clark, Jr., Alternate	2006
CABLE TV ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
Howard Miller	2008
Christine Margulies	2008
Paul DiNicola	2007
Leonard Berkowitz	2007
Thomas Lopolito	2006
CANOE RIVER AQUIFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
Janet Simolari	2008
John Fresh, Jr.	2007
Wayne P. Southworth	2006
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE	
Bruce Baker	2008
Charles Morgan	2008
Mark Carpentier	2007
Sharyn Katz	2006
Wendy V. Nightingale, Town Accountant	
Christine Santoro, Planning & Zoning Board	
, Finance Committee	
CEMETERY COMMISSION	
John R. Howard	2008
Melanie DeWare	2007
John D. Melin	2006
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE	
Michael J. Boyle	2008
Avery Lee Williams	2008
Patricia F. Hunt	2007
James D. Mullen, Jr.	2006
John E. Grant, Conservation Commission	
Frank Spillane, Recreation Commission	
Christopher J. Kone, Planning & Zoning Board	
Edmund C. Hands, Historical Commission	
Michael Malloy, Housing Authority	
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
Kyla Bennett	2008
Patricia E. Somers	2007
Barry DunKley	2007
John E. Grant	2006
Patricia A. Haederle	2006
Jonathan Chace, Associate Member	

CONSTABLES	
James A. Carey	2008
Brian Bishop	2008
John Hurley	2008
Margaret Carey	2008
Michael G. Bombas	2008
George A. Mather	2008
Scot Douglas	2008
David Wood	2008
Robert Bishop	2008
Sherilyn Noble	2008
Peter M. Buckley	2007
Jerome Zeidman	2007
Jerold Loomis	2007
Harold L. March	2007
John Melin	2007
Desmond Chow	2007
Phillip White, Jr.	2007
Brent Peterson	2006
William E. Scharnick	2006
COUNCIL ON AGING	
Francis H. Spillane	2008
Jan Hughes	2008
Carl Palm	2008
Nicolina Previti	2007
Phyllis Kiessling	2007
Marie Healey	2006
Ethel Pomerleau	2006
Delores M. Kent, Director	
CULTURAL COUNCIL	
Nancy Arns	2008
Michael Mahany	2008
Judy Halperin	2006
Wanda Azevedo	2006
Marion Wingfield	2006
Susan Chapman (Resigned 10-7-05)	2006
Greg Maniero (Resigned 8-18-05)	2006
Anne-Marie Burke	2006
Lauri Silva Costa	2006
Katherine Minsky	2006
EDUCATIONAL & MUNICIPAL TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE	
Lewis N. Aries, Jr	Indefinite
Judith Canty	Indefinite
Anne M. Carney	Indefinite
Michael Deltano	Indefinite
Christine Margulies	Indefinite
Howard Miller	Indefinite
FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE	
Vacancy	2008
Vacancy	2007

FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE (Continued)

Donna Bonia	2007
Janet Simolari	2007
Daniel Ghardy	2007
Kevin McIntyre	2006
Barbara Dolloff-Grattan	2006
Nicolina Previti	2006
Calvin Harris	2006

FENCE VIEWERS

John A. Keach, Jr.
Robert L. Hicks
Frank Meninno

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Greg Galer	2008
Melanie-Jane Deware	2008
James Carlino	2007
Catherine Adler (Resigned 12/5/05)	2007
Edmund C. Hands	2006
Michael Russell	2006
John Ventresco	2006
Frank T. Meninno, Associate Member	
Larry Mowatt, Associate Member	

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Cheryl Brightman	2008
Jan Hughes	2007
Margaret Ryan	2007
Donna Bonia	2006
Diane Shannon	2006

HUMAN RESOURCES BOARD

Donald Shanbar	2008
Carolyn Carpentier	2008
Stephen Delamere	2007
Anne-Marie Orfori-Acquaah	2007
Elyese Cicchetti	2006

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY

Richard L. Freitas	2008
Kenneth Carlson	2006
Debra Harding	2006

LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alice B. McCarthy (Town)	2008
Gerard S. Marsan (Corp)	2008
Donna P. Richman (Corp)	2008
Kathleen E. Boyle (Town)	2007
Hazel L. Varella (Town)	2007
William M. Ames (Corp)	2007
James S. Thomas (Corp)	2007
Gloria J. Stafford (Town)	2006
Kevin Paicos (Town)	2006
Annalee M. Bundy, Executive Director	

MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Henry P. Narsasian	2008
Kenneth Carlson	2008

MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE (Continued)

Wallace Fulcher	2007
Ralph Vatalaro	2007
Robert E. Langway, Jr.	2006
Dawn Boynton, School Rep	
Marc Brockman, School Rep	
Jane Pike Benton, School Rep Alternate	
Dr. Michael Green, School Supt Rep, Ex-Officio	
Wayne Southworth, DPW Director, Ex-Officio	

OLD COLONY ELDER SERVICES

Delores Kent, Board of Directors
Nicolina Previti, Board of Directors Alternate

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL (OCPC)

Jeanmarie Kent Joyce, Representative
Stephen Donahue, Delegate Alternate

OCPC AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Phyllis Kiessling, Delegate
Marie Healey, Alternate

OCPC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Wayne P. Southworth, Representative

PERMANENT LANDFILL COMMITTEE

Todd Heino	2008
David W. Brown	2007
James J. Conceison	2007
Richard J. Harb	2006
Gil A. Heino	2006

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

Colin W. Gillis	2010
Alan Weeks	2009
Christine Santoro	2008
Christopher J. Kone	2007
Walter H. Johnson	2006
Joseph McParland, Alternate	2006

RECREATION COMMISSION

Tana Babbitt	2008
Cathy Habig	2008
Michael Somers	2007
David Lang	2007
Michael J. McDonald	2007
Charles H. Hammond	2006
Frank Spillane	2006

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Jean M. Kent	2008
Jean H. Cote	2007
Kent M. Keith	2006
Janet Andrus Linehan, Clerk	

SCHOOL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Marc R. Brockman	4/1/2006
Lennart K. Altieri	
Dawn Marie Boynton	

SCHOOL PLANNING COMMITTEE (Continued)

Judith E. Josephs	
Henry P. Narsasian	4/14/2006
Wallace Fulcher	4/14/2006
Robert L. Hicks, Finance Committee	

VETERANS' GRAVES OFFICER

John D. Melin	2008

VETERANS AND MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMITTEE

Alvin Smart, Commander VFW
Louis G. Silva
John Flynn
Ernest R. Camara
Daniel B. Amorim
Paul H. Tanner

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Howard Margulies
Daniel M. Crane
Kenneth Carlson
Vacancy (Lawson)
John J. Marsh, Water Superintendent
Mark Bartlett, Planning & Zoning Board
Robert J. Kane, Board of Health

WATER RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

James D. Mullen, Jr.	2008
Shirley Tufts	2007
Eugene Packer	2006

Wayne P. Southworth, Local Water Resources Management Officer
John J. Marsh, Water Superintendent

WORLD WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

John F. Hurley, Chair
Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Chairman, School Committee
Commander, George F. Schindler Post VFW
Commander, George S. Shepard Post, A.L.
John D. Melin
Robert J. McLaughlin

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

For the Town of Easton, the year 2005 marked a time of cooperation and consensus building among town boards and town and school departments. Easton's significant growth over the last 10 years, straining town services and employees to their limits, has sparked an urgency among all who work for the community to look together for creative ways to plan for the future, while dealing with the day-to-day issues of the present.

In April of 2005, Gerald Marsan left the Board of Selectmen after a three year term. His dedicated service and thoughtful input to the board, and his past volunteer service for the community are greatly appreciated. In April, newly-elected Selectman Irwin Cohen was welcomed to the Board.

Over the course of the year, a number of significant projects were undertaken in an effort to improve the workings of town government. In response to recommendations contained in the town's annual audit, an Audit Committee was established to monitor and review the findings. The Cable Advisory Committee was reconstituted, and began negotiations with the area's cable provider. A committee charge was developed and applicants sought for a new Government Study Committee. Over the next year, this committee will investigate and evaluate other forms of municipal government, determine their potential applicability to Easton, and report its findings and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

In July, the final draft of the Town's affordable housing plan was submitted to the state. The Commonwealth requires that 10% of each community's housing stock consist of affordable housing. Easton's affordable housing plan was developed to address the particular needs of our community, and we continue to work toward this 10% goal.

The town continued to work toward a solution to our wastewater issues, which is seriously affecting our ability to attract new businesses and industries that can diversify our tax base and provide additional revenue. In July a group of area communities, including Easton, received a grant through the Old Colony Planning Council to begin exploring a regional solution to our wastewater challenges. Easton has no public sewer service and is unable to dispose of its wastewater within its borders due to unsuitable soils and lack of land for disposal. We are hopeful that progress will be made on this issue, as it continues to be one of the critical issues inhibiting economic growth in our community.

On the policy front, the Capital planning by-law was developed and approved at town meeting. A Liquor License Violation Policy and a Liquor License Compliance Check Policy were both implemented by the board.

Due to explosive growth in health care costs, energy costs and declines in state aid, in 2005 the Town of Easton continued to experience a significant and growing revenue gap. A Proposition 2 ½ Override was placed before the voters on January 11, 2005, but lost by just over 200 votes. At the annual town meeting on June 6, 2005, the budget was voted as recommended, with significant cuts to the Council on Aging budget, the Recreation Department budget, and the School department budget. As 2005 drew to a close, it became increasingly clear that the town's financial crisis had significantly worsened.

In summary, without increasing sources of revenue, the Town will face devastating cuts to all areas of service in 2006 that will negatively impact public safety, schools, town infrastructure and our most vulnerable residents. More than at any time in our history, it is imperative for Easton to come together as a community and collectively decide what kind of community we are and want to be. We invite comments, ideas and approaches from all residents of the town on how we can cooperatively overcome these fiscal challenges.

Finally, we would like to thank Town Administrator Martha White, Administrative Assistants Mary Southworth and Kit Minsky for their dedicated service this past year. The Board of Selectmen would also like to express our thanks and gratitude to all the employees and volunteers who contribute so much to our community. Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen A. Corona, Chairwoman

John S. Haederle, Clerk

Colleen A. Less

Charles P. King

Irwin M. Cohen

2005 REPORT OF
THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors updated all assessments for real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2006. The Department of Revenue now requires that values be updated every year in order to keep assessment ratios at a minimum of 90% of what properties are selling at. In other words, assessments divided by selling prices have to be at least 90%. The assessment date for the Fiscal Year 2006 values was January 1, 2005 with calendar year 2004 sales analyzed to establish the new assessments. These values are derived following Department of Revenue guidelines.

The question that is often asked concerns what will happen if values decrease. The same 90% rule applies – if calendar 2005 market activity were to show that values dropped below current assessments, then the assessments would be adjusted downward. In fact, this didn't happen as sales continued to rise in 2005, although not as steeply as in the last several years. This means that assessments for fiscal year 2007 will go up again. Market activity definitely slowed down in the last six months of 2005 and the assessors will closely monitor what happens during 2006. Assessments can go up or down according to market activity but this has little impact on the average tax bill. The reason for this is that Prop 2 ½ caps the total amount of taxes that a Town can raise. In any given year, this amount is a constant and doesn't hinge on assessments going up or down. If assessments rise, then the tax rate will be proportionately lower and if assessments drop, then the tax rate will be proportionately higher since the same amount of money will be raised. Taxes go up because more money is spent (appropriated) by the town meeting in the current year than in the previous year.

During 2005, the assessors also worked with the Bristol County Registry of Deeds to procure a grant that will give the Town a base map to implement a GIS (geographic information system). This grant should prove to be of great benefit to many departments.

In addition to valuation work, the Board of Assessors is responsible for the efficient and uniform administration of tax laws relating to exemptions for elderly, blind and disabled veterans. Inquiries on motor vehicle excise bills are handled through this office and excise abatements are processed by this department. Overvaluation applications on real and personal property are reviewed and decided at the local level by the Board of Assessors and defended by the Board when an appeal goes to the Appellate Tax Board. The Community Preservation Act Surcharge is assessed through this office and the Board processes exemptions to this surcharge.

The office maintains current maps for assessment purposes and produces abutters' lists for public hearings by other Town departments. The Board prepares information for the Board of Selectmen regarding the public hearing on classification. The Board is also responsible for submitting the recapitulation sheet to the Department of Revenue for setting the tax rate.

Property taxes and motor vehicle excise taxes account for sixty three per cent of the Town's revenue.

A SUMMARY OF THE RECAPITULATION SHEET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 IS AS FOLLOWS:

Assessed Value of Real Estate	$ 2,903,181,250.00
Assessed Value of Personal Property	32,291,970.00
Total Assessed Value of Real & Personal Property	$ 2,935,473,220.00

EXPENDITURES:

Appropriations	$	53,197,879.05
Cherry Sheet Offsets & Misc.Charges		374,208.57
State & County Charges		677,799.00
Overlay Account		345,721.42
Total Expenditures	$	54,595,608.04

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND AVAILABLE FUNDS:

State Receipts	$	11,588,329.00
Local Receipts		5,250,802.00
Enterprise Funds		2,897,738.00
Free Cash/Other Available Funds		2,384,357.05
Community Preservation Funds		1,123,528.00
Total Receipts & Available Funds	$	23,244,754.05

NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION $ 31,350,853.99

Tax Rate = 31,350,853.99 / 2,935,473,220 x 1000 = $10.68

The assessment date for fiscal year 2006 values was January 1, 2005. The Town now has 5,443 single-family homes, 1186 condominiums, 163 two-family homes and 21 three-family homes.

Significant Dates for Taxpayers and Citizens regarding the Assessors' Office:

February 1st	Payment of third quarterly tax bill and deadline for accepting appeals. The only time taxpayers can appeal assessments due to overvaluation or disproportionate assessment is from the time the actual bill is mailed in December through February 1st (or the next work day if February 1st falls on a weekend.)
March 1st	Date for submission of Forms of List. This is a listing of all business personal property and must be filed every year by anyone doing business in Town.
March	Exemption applications for elderly (over 70), blind persons, and disabled veterans with a rating from the VA, can be accepted up to three months from the time the actual tax bill is mailed the previous December. Applications are mailed in August to anyone qualifying in the previous year. Community Preservation Act exemptions may be submitted anytime after March 1st and must be accompanied by the income tax filing from the previous year. Contact the office for exemption forms.
May 1st	Payment of fourth quarterly tax bill.
June 30th	January 1st Property Tax Assessment Date. The Town adopted Chapter 653 of the MA. General Laws at the Special Town Meeting in January, 2004. This changed the date for the assessments of New Growth from January 1st to June 30th for succeeding fiscal years.

August 1st — Payment of the 1st preliminary tax bill. Preliminary bills are based on at least one quarter of the taxes from the previous fiscal year. If significant changes have taken place such as subdivision of land or new construction, taxes will be estimated accordingly. New construction will be based on whatever is complete on the previous June 30th.

November 1st — Payment of the 2nd preliminary tax bill.

December — Setting of the tax rate and mailing of the third quarterly bill that is the actual tax bill for the current fiscal year.

Telephone Number for questions or information: 508-230-0520

SHAUN FITZGERALD CHAIRMAN
WALLY FULCHER VICE-CHAIRMAN
GERALD J. NOONAN CLERK

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

We never have a dull year on the Finance Committee and 2005 was no exception. Let's take a look at how the year started, progress made, defeats incurred and outlook for the next year.

The year started well, in terms of "reason for hope".

- Departmental budgets, for the first time in several years, were provided to the Finance Committee relatively well in advance of the Annual Town Meeting (ATM), allowing adequate time for review. We met with all Town department heads to review budgets in detail and to discuss the quality and quantity of services being provided currently and as compared to historical services and services provided in comparable communities (building off the "foundation" reviews that were conducted last year).
- A proposed operational override was developed and promoted, with the Finance Committee's active involvement and support, to provide the Town the revenues necessary to allow for an appropriate level of services for a town of our demographics. The override was set at a level to eliminate the projected budget deficit and to improve services in certain areas that had become inadequate given the growth of the Town, as well as due to increasing external requirements.
- The Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Finance Committee, as well as the Town Administrator and Superintendent of Schools were united in their views of the Town's financial situation and the operational override effort. Through the Budget Subcommittee, each group brought issues to the table, held open discussions, and worked together to bring ideas and recommendations back to our respective committees for further discussion or vote.

Hope quickly faded when the citizens of Easton decided to not pass the operational override. Rather than being able to report this year on the wonderful Town benefits that had been realized by having more funds available to provide more appropriate levels of services our community deserves, we are instead reporting on the results of operating a town with inadequate revenues.

- Significant service cuts were necessary, including the elimination of teaching positions and severe cuts to the nonmandatory services of the Council on Aging and Recreation departments. All other departments were held to a 'level services' budget, which is a bit of a misnomer. Town management implemented a 'no new hires, no new positions, no new nonessential expenditures' budget mandate, which in a growing town like ours can actually lead to decreased services rather than the goal of level services, especially given the ever increasing fixed costs of the Town.
- Fixed costs, such as health care premiums, retirement benefits, and utilities, continue to consume more and more of our budget dollars, forcing sacrifices in other budget areas. We recommended a limited use of reserve funds to help reduce the budget deficit, a difficult decision given the negative ramifications of using reserves to fund ongoing operations but a decision that, at least temporarily, avoided further personnel cuts.
- We recommended the Fiscal Year 2006 budget be approved as presented at the ATM.

We not only presented to you the bleak financial picture for Fiscal Year 2006, we made the prediction that Fiscal Year 2007 was going to be worse. The Finance Committee did not dwell on this set-back, however, nor on the seemingly insurmountable financial outlook for the next year. We agreed in our first meeting after ATM that the Town did need an operational override and set our agenda accordingly. We developed Finance Committee objectives, discussed and agreed on the 'givens' (facts) of the Town's financial situation, reviewed citizen feedback, and reviewed the successes and failures of other towns in terms of overrides and solutions to a budget crisis. We wrote several letters of recommendations covering topics such as approaching another override, policies and procedures for developing the next year's budget, areas of potential cost containment, and areas that warranted further attention. Finance Committee members participated on the Capital and School Planning Committees, as well as in the groups formed to study ways to contain or reduce costs as related to health care benefits and trash removal. During 2005, the Finance

Committee met at least 30 times, and provided recommendations on warrant articles at the ATM and two special Town meetings. Additionally, we reviewed the results of the Town's Fiscal Year 2004 financial audit and held discussions with management as to the resolution of audit recommendations. The formation of an Audit Committee that was recommended last year became a reality with approval at this year's ATM and by the State.

While the Town's financial outlook is more serious than even this past year, we enter into the next year with renewed hope and vision. As of the writing of this report, we have already begun meeting department heads to perform our detail review of the Fiscal Year 2007 departmental budgets and participated in a public forum to inform the citizens of Easton as to our financial situation and to solicit feedback. **We will continue to put forth our best efforts to achieve our priority objective – to keep the citizens of Easton informed about the Town's financial situation and make recommendations regarding the Town's finances and other matters based on our diligent reviews and expertise.**

We wish to thank Karen Gallo for her dedicated services as secretary to the Finance Committee and welcome Stacey Lincoln as our new secretary. We welcomed aboard Brian Nagle and Jay Pike as our newest members this year, while expressing our gratitude to Stu Benton's unselfish dedication during his tenure on the Finance Committee as member and past Chairman, and to Irwin Cohen who continues his service to the Town as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

We also greatly appreciate the efforts of Martha White, Town Administrator, and all of the Town Departments for working with us during this tough past year, and look forward to continuing our mutually respectful collaboration for the benefit of the citizens of Easton.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Lopolito, Chairman
Leonard J. Berkowitz
Mark Carpentier
Richard Coose, Vice Chairman
Stephen A. Drown, Clerk
Patrick A. Goodman
Robert L. Hicks
Brian Nagle
Jonathan (Jay) Pike

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

During 2005, the Easton Public Schools continued to address new responsibilities and demands, while focusing on short and long-range plans to meet increased programmatic, space and school renovation concerns. The support received from the citizens of Easton that allowed both secondary school building projects to move forward was greatly appreciated, and reinforced school system and community efforts to appropriately plan for current and future generations of Easton students.

At the same time, the collaboration between the School Committee, staff, parents and the community-at-large again provided the foundation for a comprehensive and cohesive approach to the education of the students of Easton.

As this report indicates, the Easton Public Schools evidenced significant accomplishments and changes during the past year. In addition to the administrative, statutory and fiscal impacts that influenced the day-to-day operation of the school system, a number of events, achievements, and issues are indicative of the active and productive learning that takes place in the schools. This summary touches upon some of the details that made up the lives of the young people and adults of Easton during the past year.

STAFF CHANGES

A number of staff changes were experienced by the school system during the 2005 school year. Retirements included H.H. Richardson Principal Margaret Lynch, Secondary Art Department Chair Arnie Casavant, Secondary Mathematics Department Chair Kathy Boyle, Payroll Supervisor Barbara Donovan, Junior High Mathematics teacher Ken Brooks, and Elementary teachers Carol Bromowski and Harriet Larson.

Staff moving to other professional opportunities included Secondary teachers Charles Turcotte, Mildred Daley, Gianna Bolger and Kim Seaver, Music teachers Joseph Carucci and Kari Keiser, School Psychologist Barbara Pummell, Elementary teacher Tracey Weiss, Elementary SPED teacher Kelly Zanazzi, and Elementary Physical Education teacher Kara Dupill. In addition, staff and students were very saddened by the loss of former school system employees Esther Mahoney and Craig Davey.

The Easton schools and the Town of Easton will certainly miss the professionalism, love of children and dedication shown by those staff members who have left the school system during this period of change and transition.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The class of 2005 was highly successful in reaching its goals. Approximately ninety-five percent enrolled in four-year colleges, junior colleges, community colleges, nursing schools or technical institutes. Five percent elected to join the world of work and/or the military.

The class of 2005 also set a new record for accruing the largest financial aid total to date. The individual awards were a combination of collegiate, federal, state and local funds. The citizens of Easton continued their generosity by contributing to the many scholarships raised within the community.

While students continued to achieve well above national levels in the SATs, the Advanced Placement test scores in English Literature and Composition, United States History, and Calculus indicated that approximately seventy-five percent of those taking the tests earned scores of 3 or above, thus entitling them

to college credit. High school students also earned Commended Student status from the National Merit Scholarship competition.

Easton students continued to take advantage of dual enrollment opportunities with area colleges, while others were involved in coursework at Stonehill College for both high school and college credit. The Business and Technology Department's Shadow Program, improving career education, had high school students shadow local employers for a day in many of the area companies to learn about a previously selected occupation. Students were also involved in Career Speaker Day, in which speakers from a myriad number of careers and occupations volunteered to meet with students, both in their classes and individually.

The high school chapter of Future Business Leaders of America teamed up with Future Educators of America for the third annual "Follow the Sun" program. Twenty-two second graders from the Richard J. Murphy Community School in Dorchester were guests of Oliver Ames High School for a half-day environmental awareness program at the NRT Sheep Pasture site.

Easton students received recognition by the state organization, with Caitlin Sprague selected as the Massachusetts F.B.L.A. Treasurer and Kasina Trembly selected as the State Reporter. In the State level competition, Joshua Stein placed second in Accounting II, Joe Larrabee placed second in Economics, and Jessica Reynolds placed third in Entrepreneurship. Also, Katie Bastian of the junior high school won the Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

High school and junior high school students were involved in three days of intensive training in conflict resolution and peer mediation strategies. The program is in its thirteenth year and has proven to be a very effective means of resolving peer issues and conflicts. Also, a number of Oliver Ames High School students participated in the American Legion Girls State program in late spring, and in the Boys State program that was held at Stonehill College in June.

At the junior high school, Peer Assistant Leaders continued to provide assistance for students new to the building. In addition to providing information to grade 6 students at the Olmsted and Richardson schools, students assisted at the afternoon and evening functions held at the junior high school. The National Junior Honor Society welcomed new members into the Society and undertook a number of community service projects, including the NRT Harvest Fair, the Lions Club Auction and tutoring students after school.

An outgrowth of this involvement at the junior high school is the student organization, HANDS, through which Easton students dedicated themselves to promoting tolerance and respect for others, and focused on ways to help achieve a non-discriminatory society. One such way was the continuation of the Facing History and Ourselves program, an interdisciplinary focus of study between the Social Studies and Technology Departments. Also at the junior high school, the guidance staff worked closely with HUGS II in coordinating after-school programs that included enrichment as well as entertainment for junior high school students. Programs offered included sports activities, and a homework club, Spanish club, videography club and computer club.

The Art Department continued to oversee many contests so that Easton students had an opportunity to compete in a variety of arenas. A number of secondary students were selected to participate in the state wide Boston Globe Art Awards competition, junior high students also participated in the SMARTS Middle School Art Show, and junior high student Angela Norman and elementary students Emily Grotz and Rachael Kline were first place winners in the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest. Elementary students had their art work recognized through the Easton Water Department Poster Contest and the Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Student work was also exhibited at many locations throughout the year, including the high school's alumni art gallery, the art hallway in the high school, the Central Administration office, the "Welcome Mat" mural in the high school, the Fuller Art Museum, the Easton Marketplace, the Brockton Art Center, the Attleboro Art Museum, the Transportation Building in Boston, Stonehill College, and the Wang Center.

In Music, the Oliver Ames High School Marching Band and Color Guard competed in numerous competitions and exhibitions this fall under the direction of the new Band Director, Mr. Lee Beatty.

Students in the OAHS Show Choir and Pit Band participated in the 21st Anniversary Baystate Show Choir Festival. The school system hosted more than 350 students from across the state, Canada and Connecticut during the two-day festival.

The Concert Choir and Marching Band performed at the Easton Lions Club Winter Festival, while students selected to participate in the Southeast District Music Festival included Elizabeth Freitas, Todd Churn, Sarah Hadge, John Hamilton, Christopher Ilacqua, Zachary Langway, Lauren Pattie and Kelsey Raduazzo. Five students, Sarah Hadge, John Hamilton, Zachary Langway, Lauren Pattie and Kelsey Raduazzo, also went on to be chosen for the Allstate Chorus in early spring.

The Show Choir entered the Mill City Festival in Lowell and placed first in the Competition, receiving a Gold Medal, and the Pit Band also received a Gold Medal for their performance. Gold medals were also received by both the Show Choir and the Pit Band at the Eastern Show Choir Festival in Waltham and the Central Mass Show Choir Festival in Dudley, while the Jazz Ensemble earned a Silver Medal at the Norwood Jazz Festival.

In the junior high school, more than twenty students auditioned for the Southeast District Music Festival, with a number of students being accepted into the festival in orchestra, band and chorus. Also, each junior high ensemble (Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Jazz Band, and Show Choir) earned either a Gold or Silver rating at the annual Great East Festival in Springfield.

The 2005 OAHS musical production of "Once Upon A Mattress," directed by Mrs. Dalrymple, was an outstanding production and excellent learning experience for the students in the cast and the numerous staff and parents who took part. The collective participation of all the individuals who worked on the show helped to make the show a rousing success.

At the elementary level, concerts were held in January and May at the Olmsted/Richardson schools, and featured the combined Olmsted and Richardson fifth grade chorus, sixth grade chorus, orchestra, chamber orchestra, jazz band, show choir and the concert band. Also in May, Olmsted and Richardson students, under the direction of Carol Allen, presented "Rats," with over one hundred students participating in the program. In the three primary schools, students participated in musical tributes on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, and individual schools held many end-of-the-year musical productions with outstanding student participation and individual and group performances.

In Social Studies, students were involved in Community Service, Student Government Day, the Academic Bowl Team, the Mock Trial program, the Facing History and Ourselves program at grade 9, National History Day at grade 8, the two day Hockomock Senate, the Lions Club Speech Competition, the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest, school Geography Bees, the Easton Film Festival, and the Pvt. George F. Schindler Post of the VFW Voice of Democracy Contest.

In the Easton Film Festival competition, with a project theme focusing on "truth, justice and the American way," Kenneth Kaitz won first prize in the fiction category while Erica Pires placed in the documentary category. Laura Basovich was the winner of the grade 7 and 8 Geography Bee, with Matt Dunn and Ted Faust finishing second and third, while Katie Bastian and Nicole Ayasse represented the junior high school and competed in the National History Day Regional competition at Bridgewater State College.

In the Foreign Language Department, nine Spanish V students and their chaperone, Mrs. Dahri McFaline, participated in the Exchange Program to La Mojonera, Spain. The trip included stays in Almeria, Granada, Toledo and Madrid. Students continued to achieve in the various languages, with students who were recognized through the National Latin exam in either Maxima or Magma Cum Laude including Danielle Bailey, Jeremy Mudd, Daniel Holstein, Lauren Silverstein, Rebecca Allen, Joseph Davis and Elaina

Maibor. Also, three graduating seniors were presented outstanding achievement awards, including Joseph Davis in Latin, Paul Chaffin in French, and Jill Anderson in Spanish.

Students in Family and Consumer Sciences again baked cookies for the Easton Firefighters annual children's party, quilted baby quilts for donation to needy children and the HUGS organization, donated hand sewn cloth dolls to the Boston Medical Center pediatric ward as part of the "Annual Doll Project" sponsored by the hospital, cooked holiday meals for elderly citizens involved with the Council of Aging, prepared refreshments for the Science Fair, altered prom gowns, made costumes for school plays, and sponsored outdoor barbecues for the three junior high school classes. At OAHS, the "Visiting Chefs" program continued to be a highly popular interdisciplinary addition to the school year. Local chefs from Easton and surrounding communities, including Chef Jim Messinger and Chef Mike Mattola, volunteered their expertise in the field to benefit the development of student skills.

In the English Department, students who were recognized for their appreciation of language and literature and received a copy of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare included Joe Davis, Justin LaFarve, James Bing, Joe Larabee, Will Matteson and Matt Zussman. The first annual Charlene Howarth Award was presented to Jessica Peterson, who received a volume of The Complete Works of Edgar Allan Poe. Also, for the first time the Oliver Ames drama club presented a Shakespearian play, A Mid Summer Night's Dream.

The Physical Education Department continued with the inclusion of "Quidditch" as part of the elementary curriculum. "Quidditch" provides a medium for interdisciplinary teaching and learning by applying imagery from reading lessons to an adaptation of the game of lacrosse. Classroom activities and current events are connected with meaningful experiences in physical education that foster school spirit, respect, responsibility, and good sportsmanship. The physical education staff at the junior high school continued to instill enthusiasm for running and cardiovascular fitness by sponsoring the annual "Muscato Mile," which coincided with the Great American Smoke-Out and encouraged students to make wise decisions regarding their health. At the high school, students focused on an awareness of the health-related components of fitness by completing writing assignments on cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and endurance. These are then kept in student portfolios.

Mathematics students in the secondary schools continued to score well above the norm in both the state mandated MCAS exam and the SAT exam. Two-thirds of the students in Mrs. Boyle's AP Calculus class received a score of 4 or higher to qualify for college credits, with approximately half of them receiving the highest possible score. This was the first year that Oliver Ames offered both the AB and BC level Advanced Placement Calculus courses, as well as Algebra III/Trigonometry. Also, the OAHS Mathematics Team, led by Mrs. Boyle, with students from Algebra II to AP Calculus, was quite successful on the challenging tests provided by the American Scholastic Mathematics Association. Students on the junior high school Mathematics Team, led by Ms. Porter, once again excelled in the American Mathematics competition.

In the Science Department, at the grade 9 level, the physical science program moved into its fourth year of operation, utilizing technology grant money to support this initiative with laptop computers and state-of-the-art data collection probes. The junior high school engineering technology program again included grade 8 students, affording them practical problem solving experience and preparatory skills for the grade 9 physical sciences program.

At the high school level, the Oliver Ames Science Team, under the supervision of Mrs. Brockman, held the Science Olympiad at the Olmsted and Richardson Schools. More than one hundred Honors Chemistry students helped to prepare and implement hands-on science activities for the elementary students in these two elementary schools. The activities focused on science processing and higher level thinking skills. Graphing, extrapolation, measurement, estimation, inventing, communication, and inferring were emphasized in this interdisciplinary program.

The following Industrial Technology students received personal recognition for their craftsmanship and work ethic: Automotive Technology – William Eaton; Auto Body Technology – Nicholas Gaultier; Electrical Technology – John Medeiros; Building Construction – Mark Saraf; Mechanical Engineering – Michael Mascaro; and, Cad-Mechanical Technology – Joseph Webster.

Elementary school students continued to achieve and find success in a variety of forums. Among the areas to be highlighted are the following: the "Jump Rope for Heart" initiative; the Science Olympiad, through the coordination of the high school Science Team; the annual school wide art shows at both the Richardson School and the Olmsted School; the Biography Wax Museum for grade five students at Richardson; the Olmsted School grade 4 musical, "A Tapestry of Tales;" the district-wide grade 3 Family Science Night; the Bullying Education Program for grade 4 and grade 5 students, sponsored by Kids CARRE and the Easton Family Task Force; Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Nights; the opportunity to participate in the grade 5 and 6 National Geography Bee; and, "A Living History," a collaboration between the Richardson School and the Ames Free Library

Other elementary activities included student fundraising activities to provide support for victims of the Tsunami disaster; ongoing community service endeavors; the Dr. Seuss' birthday reading celebration activities; the outstanding projects displayed in the elementary school invention conventions; the continued success shown by students in the New England Math League; participation in the Johns Hopkins Talent Search; the accomplishments of the Future Problem Solving Teams; student participation in the social competency programs; the SAFE Fire Safety Program; the Northeast Search Dogs Program; the Read Across America Program; the Operation Mail Call; the Lions Club Peace Poster International Contest; the World of Difference curriculum; Portfolio Breakfasts; and, individual school programs for students such as student councils, school stores, student newsletters and newspapers, reading incentive programs, family math, science, technology and literacy nights, summer reading programs, and citizen of the month recognition.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Study of the strategies underlying the successful, in-depth implementation of our revised, standards-based Mathematics curriculum at the K – 6 level was a primary focus of the professional development program at the elementary level. Training on the use of the "Everyday Math" program was provided for all regular education and special education staff at the K-6 level, with the new math program being introduced in September, 2005 in all of the K-3 classrooms.

Teachers in the elementary schools also participated in workshops, institutes, mini-courses, study groups and graduate courses on a number of topics, including the following: Curriculum Mapping; the Everyday Math Program; Utilizing Math Exemplars; Leadership for Data Driven Decisions; Diagnostic Reading Assessment; Best Works Portfolio and Assessment Folders; Developing Fluency in Young Readers; Report Writing Skills in the Interdisciplinary Classroom; Creating Writers Through 6-Traits Writing; Guided Reading; Differentiated Instruction; Teaching Comprehension in Order to Enhance Understanding; Integration of the Arts; Power Point; Literature and Literacy; Cooperative Learning; Instructional Technology; Student Restraint Training; Autism Spectrum Disorder and Asperger's Syndrome; Wilson Reading; Paraprofessional Training for Inclusive Classrooms; Mentoring New Teachers; Social Competency; Handwriting Practices; MCAS Preparation; and, Standards Based Classrooms.

At the junior high school level, the primary focus for professional development was one transforming the current junior high school to a middle school philosophy and structure in readiness for the August, 2008 construction completion date. The high school, in response to the fall, 2004 visit by the NEAS&C accreditation team, addressed a number of topics related to the written evaluation that was received and the required progress report updates.

At the secondary level, professional development initiatives also focused on a number of topics, including the following: Use of Portfolios in the Classroom; How to Use Assessment and Rubrics; Research in Art Education; AP Calculus; Mathematics for All Learners; Literacy Strategies; Curriculum Design and

Instruction; Effective Strategies for Teaching Middle School Students; Teaching Report Writing Skills in the Interdisciplinary Classroom; Student Restraint Training; Using Power Point for Classroom Presentations; Developing Websites; Best of Hands-on Science in the Classroom; Introduction to Metalsmithing; MCAS Alternative Assessment; Learning Disabilities; Inclusion at the Secondary Level; Connections in Chemistry; Assessing Learning Styles; Using Literature Across the Curriculum; Understanding Teaching I; Health and Wellness; Classroom Management; and, Mentor Teacher Training.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT/ACTIVITIES

Karen Danielson, kindergarten teacher at the Parkview School, was selected by the Lions Club as Educator of the Year. Also at the Parkview School, Katherine Ventre was selected as a presenter for the Buzzards Bay Writing Project, and Sandra Rizzo, Karen Silverstein, Katherine Ventre and Carolyn Belmore were featured in Who's Who of America's Teachers.

Moreau Hall instituted a very successful grade one/grade two multiage classroom through the efforts of Mary Twiraga and the other staff members. Also, the Early Childhood Council worked over the year to streamline the Kindergarten Screening and Orientation Process.

Debra DiCenso was selected to replace Jenella Porter as Principal of the Center School. Also at the Center School, Tom Higgins completed his Master's Degree program, and two FEEE grants were awarded to staff members Joan Eranio, Robin Presentato, Kim Krockta, Diane Ross and Teresa Davenport.

At the Richardson School, Dan Deneen was chosen to replace Peg Lynch as Principal of the school. Maura Fine and Kristen Maffeo of the Richardson staff, and Kerri Schwarz and Shawna Powers of the Olmsted staff, implemented a job-sharing teaching model in grade 5. In this pilot program, the two teachers in each school shared a fifth grade class of students and the responsibility for all areas of the curriculum and social development.

At the Omsted School, teachers Julie Ciociola and Lauren Caulkins received their Master's Degrees, while Sarah Luke and Principal Gary Mazzola were invited to participate in Lesley University's Mid-Winter Literacy Institute Panel.

High school English teacher William Fish received his Master's Degree in English, junior high school Science teacher James Fisher received his Master's Degree in Education, Dan Garzoglio was awarded his Master's Degree in Instructional Technology, and English teacher Jamie Vitonis is doing an administrative internship with Principal Wes Paul.

Also at the secondary level, Ann Foresman Morse was chosen as the new chair of the Family and Consumer Science Department, Mary Romans was selected as the new interim chair of the Mathematics Department, and Christine DiVirgilio was chosen as the new chair of the kindergarten through grade twelve Art Department. In addition, junior high Mathematics teacher Tom O'Brien was the Lion's Club "Special Accomplishments" award recipient for 2005.

CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY

The Curriculum Coordinating Council, under the direction of Dr. Nancy Sullivan, continued its emphasis on aligning the Easton Public Schools curriculum with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, the district's Strategic Action Plan, and components of standards driven curriculum as performance based assessments. Ten standing curriculum committees are working under the direction of the coordinating council: Mathematics, co-chaired by Vanessa Beauchaine and Mary Romans; Science, co-chaired by Gary Mazzola, Maria Annunziato and Elaine Clement-Holbrook; English/Language Arts, co-chaired by Joan Nicholaides and Debra DiCenso; Health, co-chaired by Kathy Kelly and Elaine Clement-Holbrook; Technology, chaired by Chris Margulies; Physical Education, chaired by Christine Powers; Social Studies, co-chaired by Dan Deneen and Edmund Hands; World Languages, co-chaired by Ron Riley and Bob Smith; Music, chaired by Charlene Dalrymple; and Art, chaired by Christine DiVirgilio.

Several of the committees completed new curriculum documents in 2005 which were approved by the Easton School Committee for implementation. These included American Studies II for grade 11, Local History, Contemporary Issues, Philosophy, and Psychology, as well as Latin I, Latin II, Latin III, and Latin IV.

The school system continued its curriculum revision cycle in Mathematics (K-6), Social Studies (K-6), Algebra III, Trigonometry, Anatomy and Physiology. On-going revisions were accomplished in Science and the English/Language Arts/Writing curricula. A primary catalyst for review and revision was the NEAS&C high school evaluation, which required standards based curricula with incorporation of performance assessments and technology integration.

In the spring of 2005, an expanded version of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing program was administered. Students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 participated in the MCAS. Following the release of the results in late September, parent meetings were held to disseminate the information and to discuss improvement strategies. Once again, Easton ranked in the top twenty-five percent of all school districts in Massachusetts.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Oliver Ames more than 50% of all high school students participated in an athletic activity, and approximately 25% participated in music or drama.

A number of the varsity sports teams did extremely well this past year. The boys' soccer team won the Hockomock League title and was successful in the state tournament, and the girls' soccer team finished second in the league. The girls' and boys' cross country teams both finished with excellent records, and did extremely well in the State Meet. The varsity field hockey again qualified for post-season play, while the girls' varsity basketball team went into the playoffs in state tournament action. During the past year, eighteen student athletes from Oliver Ames High School were selected as Hockomock League All-Stars in the various varsity sports, while Matt Daniels was recognized as "player of the year" in his respective sport by the *Brockton Enterprise*.

In addition to the varsity sports teams, students had the opportunity to participate in 11 junior varsity programs, 6 freshman programs and 6 programs at the junior high school.

The Easton community and various booster groups again made significant contributions to our athletic program, helping to purchase new uniforms and to sponsor end-of-the-year awards banquets. The creation last year of the Hall of Fame in Easton also evidenced the wonderful support and direction provided by the residents of the town. The student athletes and coaches of the Easton Public Schools are again extremely appreciative of the emotional, financial and fan support provided by the community.

CONCLUSION

The last year was again a time of significant change and transition within the school system. We continue to be extremely concerned about inadequate State Aid and the availability of appropriate resources to meet the expectations that we have for ourselves and our student population. Nevertheless, we are grateful for our many blessings. We appreciate the support of the School Parent Advisory Councils, School Councils, and the various booster groups; the extraordinary efforts of F.E.E.E. and the STEPS organization; the hard work and dedication of the School Committee; and, the excellent and cooperative working relationships among all the members of the entire staff as well as between the schools and the town.

Respectfully submitted,

William Simmons
Superintendent of Schools

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Easton School Committee is pleased to submit the following report to the citizens of Easton.

In April's annual town election, Caroline O'Neill and William P. Braun were reelected. The committee reappointed Ellen Barlow Boyajian as Chair and Dawn Boynton as Vice Chair.

We have much to be proud about the education in Easton. Our administrators, teachers and staff are extremely dedicated, our students continue to shine in academics and athletics, and our parents are actively involved. And though this year was no different in those respects, it was in other ways a difficult year for us. Over the previous seven years, we had made a gradual effort to bring our elementary class sizes down closer to a level proven more conducive to effective learning. When the override failed in the spring, we were forced to take steps backwards. We had to cut $236,000 from a "level-services" budget.

The school system's budget of $24,341,090 for Fiscal Year 2006 was approved by Town Meeting in June of 2005. This was a "reduced-services" budget, which means that to accommodate negotiated salary increases, and rising fuel and special education costs, we had to make cuts in staff positions and programs. We lost four elementary teaching positions (retirees were not replaced), mainly affecting grades three to five. The new math curriculum could not be totally implemented, despite the fact that elementary teachers are using texts that are 15 years old. We had to again increase athletic and extracurricular fees. And although the expense budgets in each of the seven schools were already inadequately funded, it still became necessary to freeze them in December.

We had to make cuts despite knowing that we were headed in the opposite direction than what had been recommended by the high school's accrediting organization, NEASC (the New England Association of School and Colleges). In their report on the Oliver Ames High School, which we received in February, they praised the "wonderfully powerful" support for teaching and learning at OA. But we're going to print here what else they wrote in their report, because we all should take those words to heart as well:

> *"Because the school has in the words of one community leader "done so much with what it has been given," that fact clearly masks a number of unmet critical program needs in a community that historically under-funds its school. In essence, Easton, which funds its schools far below its ability to pay when ranked with all other Massachusetts towns, is so satisfied with the performance of its high school, it has failed to address critically unmet needs in a timely fashion."*

We continue to work together with the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee to more adequately fund the high expectations our community has for our educational services.

The citizens of Easton have been steadfast in their support of the secondary school building projects, for which we are extremely appreciative. A groundbreaking ceremony for the junior high school was held in October. Joining the School Committee to celebrate this much-anticipated day were members of the School Planning Committee, Municipal Building Committee, our legislative delegation, Selectmen, educators, members of STEPS (support the Easton Public Schools), and junior high students. The high school project is on schedule to be completed by August of 2007 and the junior high a year later. The state will cover the 66.55% of the costs of the high school project and 67.34% of the junior high project.

With limited resources, the teaching staff of the Easton Public Schools have maintained, even enhanced, a learning environment where our students develop both intellectually and socially. Although questions linger about whether achievement tests should be used to judge the quality of schools, a test like the MCAS does provide one barometer. Every senior again passed the MCAS test and graduated, and our students this year performed in the top one-quarter of the state.

Immense gratitude and best wishes go to the staff who retired in 2005: H.H. Richardson Principal Margaret Lynch, Secondary Art Department Chair Arnie Casavant, Secondary Mathematics Department Chair Kathy Boyle, Payroll Supervisor Barbara Donovan, Junior High Mathematics teacher Ken Brooks, and Elementary teachers Carol Bromowski and Harriet Larson.

Volunteerism thrives in the Easton Public Schools. F.E.E.E. (Foundation for Excellence in Education in Easton) raised over $105,000 in 2005, used to fund technology, for which we have not been able to budget, and teacher grants. The parent advisory councils (PACS) in each of the seven school buildings continually raise substantial funds for curriculum enrichment programs. Easton's seven School Councils—composed of parents, teachers, and other community members—devote countless hours to the development of individual School Improvement Plans. The fundraising efforts of TEMPO for the music program and the various sports booster clubs are also indispensable. Members of the Police and Fire Departments continue to provide a positive presence in our schools.

The Easton School Department faces many challenges but enjoys many blessings as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Barlow Boyajian, Chair
Dawn Boynton, Vice Chair
Caroline S. O'Neill
William P. Braun
Jane Pike Benton

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ralph Armstead, School Committee Member

The Southeastern Regional School District offers twenty vocational/technical training programs at its high school and five post-secondary programs at its technical institute. On October 1, 2005, 1215 students were enrolled in the high school and 136 students were enrolled in the technical institute. This was an increase of nineteen students over last year. Easton had 67 students enrolled in Southeastern.

Southeastern Regional is affiliated with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) to develop ways to improve the delivery of vocational-technical education to our students. The SREB and their High Schools That Work (HSTW) program is a nationally- recognized school reform network. Much of the improvements of Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) scores, including increased promotion, retention and graduation rates for Southeastern students are the result of improvements that were initiated through the HSTW program. The teacher-led HSTW team developed an action plan for the next three years focusing on reading, writing, and mathematics and an Advisor/Advisee program for incoming students. Teachers and administrators from Southeastern Regional shared their successes through presentations at the HSTW national conference this year.

The Southeastern Regional Football team won the Division IV Super Bowl defeating O'Bryant High of Boston 28-7. This was the second year in a row that the Southeastern Hawks brought home the Division IV title. Fourteen students placed in the Skills USA state competition, and one student won a Gold Medal from the Business Professionals of America and competed in the national competition in San Diego, California.

MY TURN, a private non-profit organization, continues to provide students with school-to-career activities.

Southeastern Regional graduated 234 students, the highest number of graduates in the past ten years. Students from the Class of 2005 were required to pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) for graduation. Ninety-seven percent of the class received diplomas after meeting this requirement. Placement records indicate that 96.7% of the Class of 2005 were placed in full-time jobs or had elected to pursue post-secondary education.

Program Advisory Committees met in November and April to discuss and provide recommendations for curriculum, instruction and equipment improvements to allow each program to meet industry standards. These committees, made up of industry representatives, parents, and students met again in May to discuss their conclusions and make recommendations to the Southeastern Regional School District Committee. These recommendations are the basis for the continuing improvement of programs at Southeastern.

The Southeastern Technical Institute continues to operate five full-time day programs: Licensed Practical Nursing, Medical Assisting, Administrative Office Technology, Dental Assisting, and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC). The Technical Institute works closely with the business community to assure students' skills match the skills required by employers. The strongest labor market demand in this area continues to be in the healthcare field.

The Evening School has classes scheduled Monday through Thursday. We continue to recruit new evening school teachers and look for new programs. Classes range from one-night seminars to two and three-night per week courses. Special computer courses for seniors are also offered. The Technical Institute is interested in offering additional customized training programs to business and industry.

Report of the Town Collector
Schedule of Taxes and Water Rates
for the Year Ending June 30, 2005

	Uncollected Taxes June 30, 2004	Commitments	Abatements Adjustments & Disclaimer	Tranfers to Tax Title	Collections, Net of Refunds	Uncollected Taxes June 30, 2005
Personal Property						
2001	2,142	-	-	-	2,142	-
2002	2,659	-	54	-	2,605	-
2003	9,623	-	-	-	7,364	2,258
2004	4,841	-	604	-	1,116	3,120
2005		335,009	151		326,428	8,430
	$ 19,265	$ 335,009	$ 809	$ -	$ 339,656	$ 13,808
Real Estate						
1997	503	-	-	-	-	503
2002	17	-	-	-	-	17
2003	3,998	-	-	-	-	3,998
2004	474,059	6,670	2,756	100,142	380,565	(2,735)
2005		28,718,384	89,944	115,443	28,153,726	359,271
2006					7,801	(7,801)
	$ 478,576	$ 28,725,054	$ 92,700	$ 215,586	##########	$ 353,254
Motor Vehicle Excise						
1986	17,201	-	(9)	-	352	16,858
1987	21,278	-	-	-	194	21,084
1988	26,695	-	-	-	59	26,637
1989	24,002	-	-	-	41	23,961
1990	21,648	-	-	-	70	21,578
1991	15,135	-	-	-	15	15,121
1992	11,885	-	-	-	16	11,869
1993	11,713	-	-	-	-	11,713
1994	11,395	-	-	-	-	11,395
1995	8,486	-	271	-	475	7,739
1996	8,212	-	-	-	80	8,132
1997	6,804	-	-	-	113	6,690
1998	8,562	-	-	-	332	8,229
1999	7,437	-	-	-	692	6,745
2000	11,285	-		-	1,451	9,834
2001	16,913	-	-	-	1,968	14,944
2002	26,616	-	154	-	5,687	20,774
2003	50,907	22,003	7,878	-	42,826	22,207
2004	164,840	547,453	39,852	-	615,019	57,422
2005	-	2,710,510	87,462		2,357,420	265,629
	$ 471,014	$ 3,279,967	$ 135,608	$ -	$ 3,026,811	$ 588,561
Water Rates and Service	$ 211,054	$ 2,811,408	$ -	$ 106,391	$ 2,672,688	$ 243,384

ANNUAL REPORT OF TAX TITLE

Balance - June 30, 2004		**$449,978.06**
Additions:		
New Tax Takings FY 05	$ 44,944.69	
Subsequent Year "04"	$ 68,753.91	
Subsequent Year "05"	$ 127,115.47	
Additional Fees & Interest Added to New Takings	$ 10,292.36	
Deductions:		
Redemptions:	$ 77,991.24	
Balance - June 30, 2005		$ 623,093.25

Annual Report of the Town Treasurer /Collector
Debt Statement

FY2005

Long Term Debt Inside the Debt Limit	Outstanding July 1, 2004	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	= Outstanding June 30, 2005	Interest Paid in FY2005
Buildings	580,000.00		40,000.00	540,000.00	28,385.0
Departmental Equipment				0.00	
School Buildings	19,275,000.00		1,100,000.00	18,175,000.00	878,070.0
School - All Other				0.00	
Sewer	230,473.04		24,418.17	206,054.87	2,429.1
Solid Waste				0.00	
Other Inside	1,238,478.70		141,917.40	1,096,561.30	61,257.7
SUB - TOTAL Inside	$21,323,951.74	$0.00	$1,306,335.57	$20,017,616.17	$970,141.3

Long Term Debt Outside the Debt Limit	Outstanding July 1, 2004	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	= Outstanding June 30, 2005	Interest Paid in FY2005
Airport				0.00	
Gas/Electric Utility				0.00	
Hospital				0.00	
School Buildings				0.00	
Sewer				0.00	
Solid Waste	4,982,342.00		307,657.00	4,674,685.00	197,028.7
Water	3,296,521.30		493,082.60	2,803,438.70	129,482.3
Other Outside				0.00	
SUB - TOTAL Outside	$8,278,863.30	$0.00	$800,739.60	$7,478,123.70	$326,511.0
TOTAL Long Term Debt	$29,602,815.04	$0.00	$2,107,075.17	$27,495,739.87	$1,296,652.9

Short Term Debt	Outstanding July 1, 2004	+ Issued	- Retired	= Outstanding June 30, 2005	Interest Paid in FY2005
RANs - Revenue Anticipation				0.00	
BANs - Bond Anticipation:					
Buildings				0.00	
School Buildings	20,000,000.00	20,000,000.00	20,000,000.00	20,000,000.00	549,978.5
Sewer				0.00	
Water	200,000.00	1,660,000.00	200,000.00	1,660,000.00	5,510.8
Other BANs	894,000.00	920,000.00	894,000.00	920,000.00	24,595.6
SANs - State Grant Anticipation				0.00	
FANs - Federal Gr. Anticipation				0.00	
Other Short Term Debt				0.00	
TOTAL Short Term Debt	$21,094,000.00	$22,580,000.00	$21,094,000.00	$22,580,000.00	$580,085.0
GRAND TOTAL All Debt	$50,696,815.04	$22,580,000.00	$23,201,075.17	$50,075,739.87	$1,876,737.9

Authorized and Unissued Debt

Purpose	Date of Vote	Article Number	Amount Authorized	- Issued - Retired - Rescined	= Unissued 6/30/2005
Library Addition	04/08/96	7	5,000,000.00	700,000.00	4,300,000.00
Water Pollution Abatement Trst	05/11/98	60	200,000.00	137,657.00	62,343.00
Library Access Road	05/20/02	12	400,000.00		400,000.00
School Construction	01/13/03	22	67,900,000.00	21,900,000.00	46,000,000.00
School Construction	12/06/04	5	13,525,935.00		13,525,935.00
FY04 Capital Budget	06/09/03	16	620,000.00	594,000.00	26,000.00
Road/Sidewalk Repairs	06/09/03	16	500,000.00	500,000.00	0.00
Land Purchase	05/25/04	50	350,000.00		350,000.00
Town Well	04/10/95	15	1,500,000.00	1,100,000.00	400,000.00
Addition to Water Division Off	06/04/01	8	150,000.00		150,000.00
Water UV Equip - Addit Funds	05/20/02	20	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00
Meter Replacement Program	05/25/04	37	600,000.00	600,000.00	0.00
Tank Painting	06/06/05	33	550,000.00		550,000.00
State Grant (GAN)	04/13/98	20	64,000.00	64,000.00	0.00
State Grant (GAN)	11/22/99	15	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00
					$65,764,278.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa DeSilva
Town Treasurer/Collector

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Wendy V. Nightingale, Town Accountant
Elizabeth Morgan, Assistant Town Accountant
Adilia Collazo, Principal Clerk
TEL: (508) 230-0560
FAX: (508) 230-0569
E-Mail: wnightingale@easton.ma.us

I hereby submit the report of the Town Accountant for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, which includes the balance sheet as of that date and the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund equity.

The office of the Town Accountant is responsible for the accounting and control of all town funds, disbursements, and financial records in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and by-laws of the Town of Easton. In addition, responsibilities include maintenance of the Town's general ledger system including detailed records of cash receipts, appropriations and expenditures, and the closing of all financial books at the end of the fiscal year. The Town Accountant prepares financial statements and reports, assists in the preparation of the Town budget and works with the independent auditors on the annual financial and compliance audit.

Our annual audit for the fiscal year will be completed shortly by Melanson, Heath & Company, PC of Andover, Massachusetts.

I would especially like to thank my Assistant, Elizabeth Morgan and Principal Clerk, Adilia Collazo for all their hard work and dedication during the year. In addition, I thank all the Town Departments, Boards, Commissions and Committees for their cooperation and support this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Nightingale
Town Accountant

TOWN OF BASTON, MASSACHUSETTS
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
JUNE 30, 2005

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Type	Fiduciary Fund Type	Account Group	Total
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Trust and Agency	General Long-Term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	4,315,519.18	5,157,519.76	8,191,381.81	2,095,491.21	4,752,379.68	-	24,512,291.64
Receivables:							
Real estate taxes	353,253.52	14,613.02	-	-	-	-	367,866.54
Personal property taxes	13,808.41	-	-	-	-	-	13,808.41
Tax liens and foreclosures	799,883.79	-	-	-	-	-	799,883.79
Water user charges receivable	-	-	-	1,189,894.80	-	-	1,189,894.80
Water liens	-	-	-	9,632.40	-	-	9,632.40
Betterments	-	58,877.81	-	64,709.11	-	-	123,586.92
Motor vehicle excise and other excise	588,560.80	-	-	-	-	-	588,560.80
Departmental and other	525,601.78	85,037.42	-	1,182.45	-	-	611,821.65
Intergovernmental	-	515,025.97	-	-	-	-	515,025.97
Inventory	-	-	-	83,802.03	-	-	83,802.03
Fixed assets, net	-	-	-	32,106,966.76	-	-	32,106,966.76
Other assets	-	-	-	268.39	-	-	268.39
Amount to be provided for payment of long-term obligations	-	-	-	-	-	24,692,301.17	24,692,301.17
Total Assets	6,596,627.48	5,831,073.98	8,191,381.81	35,551,947.15	4,752,379.68	24,692,301.17	85,615,711.27
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY							
Liabilities:							
Warrants payable	292,421.24	131,259.25	2,449,115.63	133,373.68	29,218.73	-	3,035,388.53
Accrued liabilities	517,261.08	9,576.34	-	139,077.96	600.00	-	666,515.38
Deferred revenue	2,281,108.30	673,554.22	-	-	-	-	2,954,662.52
Tax refunds payable	156,136.33	403.95	-	-	-	-	156,540.28
Other liabilities	157,467.18	740.89	-	-	1,839,287.13	-	1,997,495.20
Notes payable	-	-	20,920,000.00	1,660,000.00	-	-	22,580,000.00
General long-term debt	-	-	-	2,803,438.70	-	24,692,301.17	27,495,739.87
Total Liabilities	3,404,394.13	815,534.65	23,369,115.63	4,735,890.34	1,869,105.86	24,692,301.17	58,886,341.78
Fund Equity:							
Contributed capital	-	-	-	17,914,495.00	-	-	17,914,495.00
Retained earnings:							
Reserved	-	-	-	333,152.14	-	-	333,152.14
Unreserved	-	-	-	12,568,409.67	-	-	12,568,409.67
Fund Balances:							
Reserved for encumbrances	113,836.27	-	-	-	-	-	113,836.27
Reserved for continuing appropriations	376,557.11	-	-	-	-	-	376,557.11
Reserved for expenditures	165,000.00	1,009,491.50	-	-	659,115.00	-	1,833,606.50
Reserved for nonexpendable trust principal	-	-	-	-	74,295.69	-	74,295.69
Reserved for unexpended exempt debt	117,745.81	-	-	-	-	-	117,745.81
Reserved for petty cash	400.00	-	-	-	-	-	400.00
Unreserved:							
Designated for snow & ice deficit	(335,915.57)	-	-	-	-	-	(335,915.57)
Undesignated	2,754,609.73	4,006,047.83	(15,177,733.82)	-	2,149,863.13	-	(6,267,213.13)
Total Fund Equity	3,192,233.35	5,015,539.33	(15,177,733.82)	30,816,056.81	2,883,273.82	-	26,729,369.49
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	6,596,627.48	5,831,073.98	8,191,381.81	35,551,947.15	4,752,379.68	24,692,301.17	85,615,711.27

TOWN OF EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS
COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND EQUITY
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Type	Fiduciary Fund Type	Account Group	
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Trust and Agency	General Long-Term Debt	Total (Memorandum Only)
Revenues							
Property taxes	29,002,717.61	636,148.94	-	-	-	-	29,638,866.55
Excise taxes	3,027,052.79	-	-	-	-	-	3,027,052.79
Penalties & interest	167,763.75	1,409.93	-	17,698.19	-	-	186,871.87
Licenses, permits and fees	625,717.69	-	-	-	-	-	625,717.69
Investment income	430,166.63	67,827.09	-	31,154.32	43,362.76	-	572,510.80
Departmental	769,418.11	495,494.57	-	-	-	-	1,264,912.68
Fines	56,696.36	-	-	-	-	-	56,696.36
Intergovernmental - state	11,194,674.00	1,648,337.47	7,610.00	-	-	-	12,850,621.47
Intergovernmental - federal	-	1,336,523.56	-	-	-	-	1,336,523.56
User charges	-	-	-	2,791,900.58	-	-	2,791,900.58
Other	241,937.03	1,642,745.64	-	7,202.10	6,500.00	-	1,898,384.77
	45,516,143.97	5,828,487.20	7,610.00	2,847,955.19	49,862.76	-	54,250,059.12
Expenditures							
General government	9,384,557.72	126,001.50	-	-	6,266.24	-	9,516,825.46
Public safety	5,357,269.90	468,909.52	349,348.12	-	405.83	-	6,175,933.37
Education	23,815,984.95	2,702,003.38	13,945,340.63	-	4,300.00	-	40,467,628.96
Public works	2,345,279.83	562,921.04	218,635.85	-	-	-	3,126,836.72
Water	-	-	-	1,907,931.51	-	-	1,907,931.51
Human services	575,451.36	39,678.11	-	-	-	-	615,129.47
Culture and recreation	473,151.00	256,372.71	132,481.33	-	-	-	862,005.04
Debt service	3,359,432.77	-	-	130,750.87	-	-	3,490,183.64
State and county assessments	611,615.86	-	-	-	-	-	611,615.86
Capital outlay	162,821.25	-	-	-	-	-	162,821.25
	46,085,564.64	4,155,886.26	14,645,805.93	2,038,682.38	10,972.07	-	66,936,911.28
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(569,420.67)	1,672,600.94	(14,638,195.93)	809,272.81	38,890.69	-	(12,686,852.16)
Other financing sources (uses):							
Proceeds from long-term borrowing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	(181,691.00)	(300,000.00)	174,000.00	(547,753.00)	855,444.00	-	-
	(181,691.00)	(300,000.00)	174,000.00	(547,753.00)	855,444.00	-	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other uses	(751,111.67)	1,372,600.94	(14,464,195.93)	261,519.81	894,334.69	-	(12,686,852.16)
Beginning fund equity	3,943,345.02	3,642,938.39	(713,537.89)	30,554,537.00	1,988,939.13	-	39,416,221.65
Ending fund equity	3,192,233.35	5,015,539.33	(15,177,733.82)	30,816,056.81	2,883,273.82	-	26,729,369.49

REPORT OF ANNUAL AUDIT

The Annual Audit of the Books and Accounts of the Town of Easton for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2005 was made by Melanson Heath & Company, PC, Certified Public Accountants. A copy of the report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

2005 REPORT OF
THE CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
FISCAL 2006 CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

The Capital Planning Committee met regularly between January and May of 2005 to review the capital needs of Town departments. During this time, the Committee also worked with the Town Administrator to develop a new Capital Planning Committee By-law to provide further structure to the capital planning process and to make it a true planning process, rather than a reactionary one. The by-law defines the role of the Committee, the capital planning process and the capital budget.

Although the by-law must still be approved at the upcoming annual town meeting, the Committee used the evaluation criteria from the proposed draft to classify and prioritize the requests received by the Town's departments. The result is the attached Fiscal 2006 Capital Improvement Prioritization List.

Fiscal 2006 Capital Improvement Prioritization List

The Committee classified the departmental requests based on the following evaluation criteria. The number below corresponds to the "Class" number assigned on the priority list:

1. Imminent threat to the health and safety of citizens or property
2. Requirement of state or federal law or regulation
3. Improvement of a capital asset to facilitate maintenance of operations, not to include ordinary maintenance; these are intended to be expenditures that will avoid costly replacement in the future
4. Improvement of infrastructure
5. Improvement of productivity
6. Alleviation of an overburdened situation

Items assigned with an "O" were given other, separate consideration because they would use funding sources such as grants and water enterprise revenue or surplus revenue. They were also assigned a priority of "A" to take them out the numeric sort order. The committee recommends funding all of these requests.

Five Year Capital Plan

The five year capital plan is also attached to this report[1]. At this time, only the fiscal 2006 requests have been classified and prioritized. The committee will consider the usefulness of extending this to future years, given the Town's current funding limitations. The report is sorted first by the fiscal 2006 assigned priorities and then by department for the remaining fiscal years.

Other Matters

The Committee reorganized on 5/10/05. Charles Morgan remains as Chair, Sharyn Katz remains as Vice Chair and Wendy Nightingale remains as Secretary. Other Committee members are as follows: Bruce Baker (at-large) Mark Carpentier (Finance Committee) and Christine Santoro (Planning Board). The Committee recently received a notice of resignation from Michael Boyle (at large). We wish to thank him for his many, many years of valuable service on the Committee. This vacancy has not yet been filled.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Nightingale
May 12, 2005

[1] Due to sizing limitations, the five-year plan is not included in this Town Report. A full copy may be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office.

TOWN OF EASTON
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
FY 2006 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIZATION LIST

Department	Class	Capital Planning Priority	Brief Description of Item	Initial Inclusion Date	Requested FY 06	
Fire	1	1	1500 GPM Pumping Engine # 4 (Grant $225,00	11/11/1998	25,000	(1)
Highway	1	2	Holder C-500 - *replace equipment with attachments ID #80* (1986 Holder)		90,000	(1)
Police	1	3	Replace Three Police Cruisers (Committee recommends 2 at a cost of $58,000)	FY 2005	87,059	
Center School	1	4	Upgrade & Repave parking lot		28,000	(1)
Moreau Hall	1	4	Upgrade & Repave parking lot		15,000	(2)
Parkview School	1	4	Upgrade & Repave parking lot		18,000	(1)
Building & Grounds	5	5	Stump Grinder - *new*		35,000	
Building & Grounds	5	6	Log Truck - *replace Vehicle #34 w/plow*(1986 Ford)		100,000	
Data Processing	5	7	Document Management	2/17/2005	35,000	
Center School	5	8	Upgrade Heating Controls		10,000	
Moreau Hall	5	8	Upgrade Heating Controls		10,000	
Parkview School	5	8	Upgrade Heating Controls		10,000	
Highway	5	9	2-Ton Dump Trucks with Sander & Plow - *replace Vehicle #4* (1992 Ford) & Vehicle #5 (1992 Ford) (Committee recommends 1 at a cost of $40,000)		80,000	
Fire	5	10	New Technology (ambulance trip sheet software	5/28/2001	30,676	
Parkview School	6	11	Upgrade Electrical Service		100,000	
Police/Fire Station	6	12	Replace boiler.	10/12/1997	20,000	
Fire Station #3	6	13	Replace Gutters		10,000	
Police/Fire Station	6	13	Replace gutters.		10,000	
Center School	6	14	Replace wood windows & concrete lintels in clearstory.	3/13/2001	31,000	
Fire	6	15	Fire Prevention Vehicle	5/20/2003	24,900	
Fire Station #3	6	16	Install A/C system.	3/13/2001	20,000	
DPW Center St	6	17	Replace HVAC. Replace 6 garage doors. Renovate bathrooms to conform to ADA requirements. Build a leantool for central maintenance vehicles.	3/13/2001	240,000	
Parkview School	6	18	Remove asbestos in boiler room and reinsulate (abatement)	3/13/2001	33,000	(3)
Data Processing	O	A	Upgrade of 2 servers (and all routers about every 5th year) using DP 01-051-02-5850	2/17/2005	20,000	(4)
Data Processing	O	A	Replacement of about 25-28 computers and 1 server using Comcast money for each year	2/17/2005	35,000	(4)
Fire	O	A	4 Air Packs (2005 Grant Funding)	10/3/1998	13,835	(4)
Fire	O	A	Rescue Equipment (2005 Grant Funding)	8/28/1996	17,107	(4)
Police	O	A	Replace Old Telephone System	FY 2005	13,000	(4)
Police	O	A	Replace Photocopier	FY 2005	7,000	(4)
Water Division	O	A	Install VFD Motor Control Center at Wells #2 & #4	2004	30,000	(1)
Water Division	O	A	Inspect Washington Street & Bay Road Tanks	2003	10,000	(1)
Water Division	O	A	Paint Bay Road Tank	1998	550,000	(1)
Water Division	O	A	Replace backhoe #128	1999	80,000	(1)
Water Division	O	A	Replace vehicle #127 Pickup Truck	2001	20,000	(1)
Water Division	O	A	Replace vehicle #131 Utility Truck w/plow	2001	35,000	(1)
Fiscal 2006 Totals					**1,893,577**	

NOTES:
(1) = Funded at Annual Town Meeting adjourned to 6/6/05.
(2) = Materials and services donated to the Town during the summer of 2005 to complete this project.
(3) = This asbestos is currently contained and poses no health threat. As a result, no action is recommended at this time. If this situation should change, funding for the abatement would become a top priority.
(4) = Funded via sources of income outside of the capital budget. No special appropriation required.

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

I cannot emphasize enough the need for replacing the DPW positions eliminated over the past four years and funding our budget properly to provide the necessary services to the residents of Easton.

The DPW is responsible for maintaining the infrastructure assets of our community.

The Highway Division is responsible for the 129.65 miles of roadway over 408 separate streets including sidewalks and drainage systems, overseeing catch basin clearing, street sweeping, asphalt paving and patching, crack sealing, line painting, all winter emergency operations of road and sidewalk, sanding, plowing and oversight of hired equipment.
Vehicles for police, school, and DPW are maintained at our repair facility.

The Building and Grounds Division provides maintenance to all town buildings: seven schools, three fire stations, police department, three D.P.W. facilities, the Town Offices and 50 plus parks, playgrounds, and cemeteries. All town trees along the roadways fall within the oversight of the Tree Warden, who supervises this division. Set up is provided for all elections, Town Meetings, and high school graduation.

The Water Division maintains 158.3 miles of water mains ranging in pipe size up to 16", including 1,405 hydrants and 3,018 street valves supplying water to 7,019 services and meters from six well sources and two water storage tanks containing 2 million gallons each.

The Water Division has substantially completed the retrofitting of all meters in the community with a new radio read technology and has begun to bill all customers on a quarterly basis. The 2 million gallon water storage tank on Washington Street was taken out of service, sandblasted and repainted on both the interior and exterior.

The new well and building, including site work, has been completed for our Well #7 and will be on line in 2006. At the fall Town Meeting 13.4 acres were approved for purchase adjacent to our existing 2 million gallon water storage tank on Bay Road, insuring space for an additional water storage tank when future needs arise.

The year 2005 will certainly be remembered for all the serious weather issues. During the winter of 2004/2005 we depleted our Snow and Ice budget and ended with a $335,919 deficit.

Fourteen DPW personnel worked all day Saturday October 15, 2005 from
7:00 am-9:30 pm dealing with plugged drains and flooding issues. Elm Street, Main Street and Central Street were closed due to the over flooding of the roads and concerns of dam failures. Nearby residents were notified of the possible need to evacuate if situations worsened. Sandbags were placed on the Shovel Shop Dam as it started to flow over the top. Dozens of barrels were placed around town to alert motorists of the road flooding hazards. Many homes throughout the community suffered basement flooding with considerable personal property loss. The worst road flooding was on Union Street, Elm Street, Main Street, Purchase Street, Prospect Street, Bay Road, Highland Street, South Street, Norton Avenue, Poquanticut Avenue, Rockland Street, Chestnut Street, Massapoag Avenue, and Kevin's Way.

All DPW divisions were busy cleaning up after the storm and making repairs during the week of 10/16/05.

- Roofs were repaired at the DPW, Center School and Fire Station #3.
- Two days of work at the culvert on Union Street across from the pond removing rocks in the brook, repairing washouts along the road, repairing the headwall and reinforcing over the culvert with flowable fill.

- One day of work on Elm Street at the culvert, repairing the washouts and placing flowable fill above the culvert.
- 1/2 day repairing headwall and culvert on Chestnut Street at the Brook.
- Patching and repair of washouts along roadways throughout the town was on-going all week.
- Many residents requested drainage improvements and new berms in front of their homes since the storm which will have to be scheduled in the future as time and money allow.
- The Water Division increased the level of Chlorine added to the water supply as a safeguard due to the excessive 7 inches of rainfall and runoff in less than 24 hours.

I would like to commend Jim Luke and the entire DPW staff for their efforts so far this winter. We have conducted 7 sanding and 1 plowing operation.

Crews dealt with snow on Thanksgiving Day, sanding the town that morning.
We had 2" of snow on Sunday, December 4th, which was handled with a sanding operation.

Friday, December 9th was a very difficult storm to deal with. We encountered snow, rain, sleet, and even thunder with high winds causing a white out condition during the day with heavy traffic on the roads while residents were trying to get home.

We started the sanding operation that morning with 8 sanders. The plowing operation began at 11:00 am with 22 town vehicles and 38 pieces of hired equipment. Plowing continued until 8:00 pm, then we started the sanding operation again and completed at midnight. On Saturday morning, December 10th, we brought in all DPW personnel and a few of the larger pieces of hired equipment at 8:00 am to try and scrape off the ice pack on the roadways that formed when we had the sleet and freezing rain conditions. Both sidewalk plows began their routes. When plowing was completed at 5:00 pm, we sanded the entire town again due to the freezing of the wet roadways. The police called for some spot sanding on Sunday and on Monday, Town personnel went back out again to try and scrape up some of the frozen hard pack on the roadways. Clearing of the sidewalks continued through Tuesday, December 13th.

During the high wind conditions on Friday, we had a very large tree come down at the corner of Highland Street and South Street, bringing down power lines with it. Building and Grounds personnel were dispatched to cut up and remove this tree as well as several smaller trees around the town.

There were 3-broken water mains during this period, pulling away Water Division personnel from the snow removal operation. Saturday, December 10th at 11:00 am there was a broken 8" water main on Massapoag Avenue. Monday, December 12th there was a broken 6" water main on Ridgewood Road and Tuesday, December 13th, a broken 8" water main on Rollins Road.

The cost for this 6" snow storm was $26,652.33 for hired equipment and $14,427.68 in overtime for DPW personnel for a total of $ 41,080.01.

The impact of the two new school projects has certainly affected the entire D.P.W. this past year with a multitude of meetings and issues of moving equipment, dealing with space requirements and relocating utilities.

The D.P.W. handled the contracts and administration of the paving at Center and Parkview Schools of the parking lots and playground areas.

Major Construction Projects
Completed in 2005

Roadway Paving:

		Linear Feet	Miles
Coughlin Road		400	0.08
Dailey Avenue		1,208	0.23
Gardner Road		726	0.14
Harrison Avenue		860	0.16
Judith Road		640	0.12
Mill Street		4,514	0.85
Western Avenue		2,500	0.47
	Total	**10,848**	**2.05**

Miscellaneous Paving:

		Tons
Center Street School Parking Lot / Walkways		930.65
Parkview School Parking Lot / Walkways		778.58
	Total	**1709.23**

Cement Sidewalk Construction:

		Linear Feet	Miles
Center Street		2,550	0.48
Hayward Street		540	0.10
	Total	**3,090**	**0.59**

Drainage Basins Newly Constructed:

		New Basins
Center Street, Cosma Road, Kingsley Road (2), Pond Street, & Prospect Street	**Total**	**6**

Drainage Basins Remodeled:

		Remodeled Basins
Allen Road, Bay Road, Black Brook Road (2), Cedar Drive, Center Street (2), Central Street, Cornerstone Drive, Cosma Road, Coughlin Road (2), Elenore Strasse, Galahad Way, Gilmore Road, Judith Road, Oliver Ames High School, Park Street, Parkview School, Pond Street, South Street	**Total**	**21**

Berm Installation:

		Linear Feet	Miles
Various Locations Town-wide	**Total**	**2,994**	**0.57**

Traffic Marking: (Linepainting)

		Linear Feet	Miles
Various Locations Town-wide	**Total**	**260,101**	**49.26**

Crack-Sealing Roadways:

		Linear Feet	Miles
Bay Road		14,458	2.74
Norton Avenue		4,499	0.85
	Total	**18,957**	**3.59**

Roadway Repair:

		Tons
Bay Road, Highland Street, Norton Avenue, Pond Street, Prospect Street, & Randall Street	**Total**	**1,090**

Pothole Patching:

		Tons
Various Locations Town-wide	**Total**	**200**

We would like to thank Mr. David Howe of J. Derenzo and Co. for his very generous donation of rebuilding the lower parking lot at Moreau Hall, installing a new drainage system and completely repaving the parking area, saving the town a substantial amount of money.

Contractor Stephen Ando Paull of West Bridgewater was the successful bidder on the Mass Highway Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) on Depot Street from the Five Corners to Fox Ridge Road. They have completed the survey of the project and are presently installing drainage. The roadway will be rebuilt during 2006.

We continued to work with our traffic consultant, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., on the roadway design of Foundry Street, Route # 123, from the Norton town line to Eastman Street. Title searches have been conducted on parcels that will need to have both temporary and permanent construction easements completed prior to funding by Mass Highway and approved at the Town Meeting.

New traffic signal lights and paving have been completed at the entrance of the new Highland Plaza shopping complex on Eastman Street.

The Building and Grounds Division celebrated Arbor Day on April 29th with a ceremony at the Historical Society Railroad Station on Sullivan Avenue with the planting of a tree in honor of Kenneth Martin.

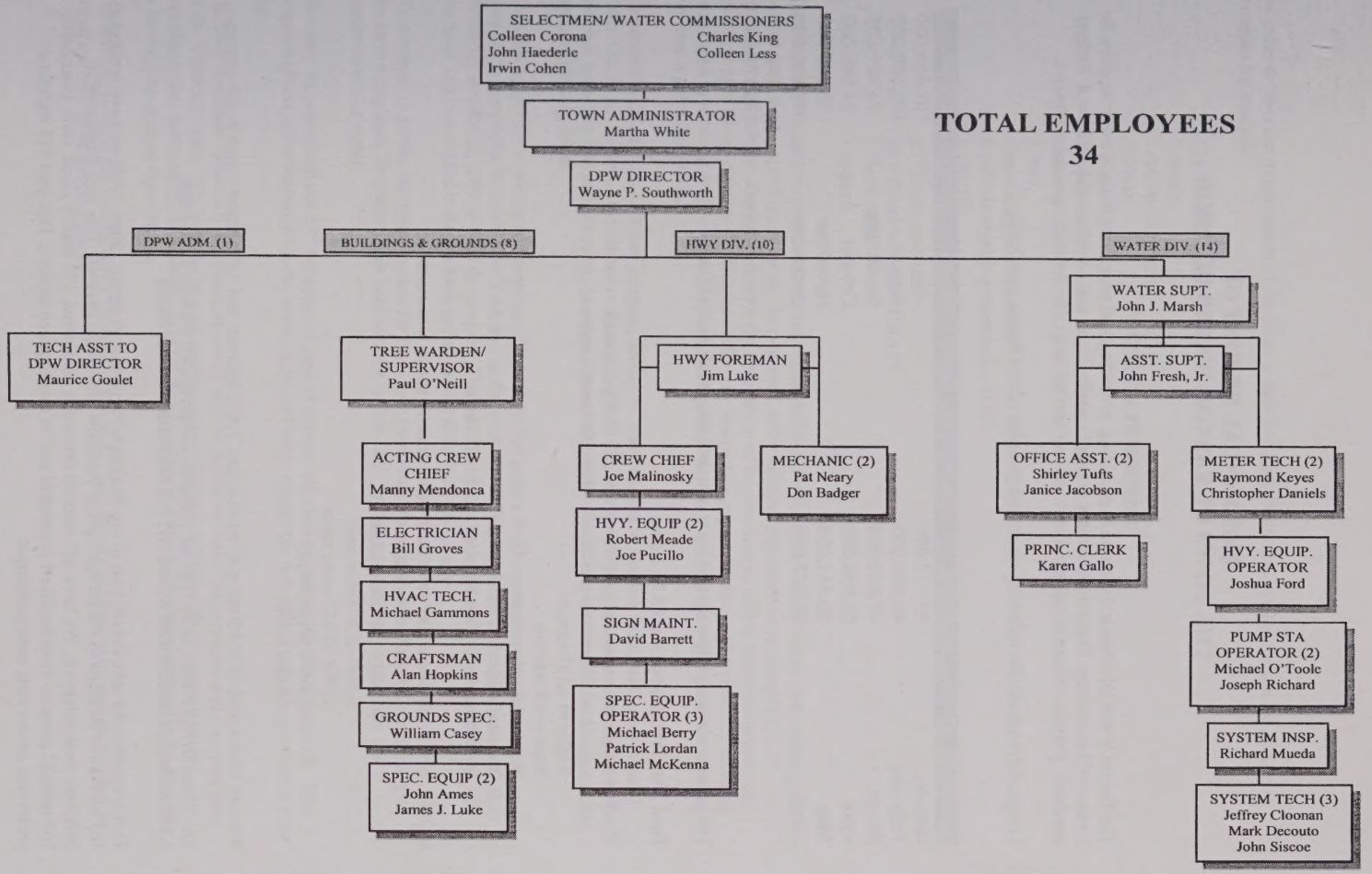
The Water Division celebrated National Drinking Water Week on April 30th with an Open House and poster contest at their facility at 417 Bay Road.

The Annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day was held on May 14, 2005 at the D.P.W. on 130 Center Street with 303 residents participating.

The Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee held their annual Awareness Day on May 7, 2005 at the Mansfield Fish and Game Club.

I am very proud of the entire D.P.W. staff, especially their unprecedented cooperation during these difficult times. The Office Staff, Shirley Tufts, Jan Jacobson, and Karen Gallo, deserve much praise for their daily efforts in providing quality customer service. The management team of James Luke, Paul O'Neill, Maurice Goulet, Jack Marsh and John Fresh has demonstrated a positive approach to a multitude of challenges.

Wayne P. Southworth
D.P.W. Director
wsouthworth@easton.ma.us


SELECTMEN/ WATER COMMISSIONERS
Colleen Corona
John Haederle
Irwin Cohen
Charles King
Colleen Less
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Martha White
DPW DIRECTOR
Wayne P. Southworth
TOTAL EMPLOYEES
34
DPW ADM. (1)
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (8)
HWY DIV. (10)
WATER DIV. (14)
TECH ASST TO DPW DIRECTOR
Maurice Goulet
TREE WARDEN/ SUPERVISOR
Paul O'Neill
HWY FOREMAN
Jim Luke
WATER SUPT.
John J. Marsh
ASST. SUPT.
John Fresh, Jr.
ACTING CREW CHIEF
Manny Mendonca
ELECTRICIAN
Bill Groves
HVAC TECH.
Michael Gammons
CRAFTSMAN
Alan Hopkins
GROUNDS SPEC.
William Casey
SPEC. EQUIP (2)
John Ames
James J. Luke
CREW CHIEF
Joe Malinosky
HVY. EQUIP (2)
Robert Meade
Joe Pucillo
SIGN MAINT.
David Barrett
SPEC. EQUIP. OPERATOR (3)
Michael Berry
Patrick Lordan
Michael McKenna
MECHANIC (2)
Pat Neary
Don Badger
OFFICE ASST. (2)
Shirley Tufts
Janice Jacobson
PRINC. CLERK
Karen Gallo
METER TECH (2)
Raymond Keyes
Christopher Daniels
HVY. EQUIP. OPERATOR
Joshua Ford
PUMP STA OPERATOR (2)
Michael O'Toole
Joseph Richard
SYSTEM INSP.
Richard Mueda
SYSTEM TECH (3)
Jeffrey Cloonan
Mark Decouto
John Siscoe

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE TOWN OF EASTON WATER DIVISION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Easton Water Division is dedicated to providing, protecting and preserving today's water supplies for tomorrow's consumers. Our commitment is to supply quality water that complies with all State & Federal standards, provide education and excellent customer service, and to be the leaders of our profession.

I respectfully submit the following report and pumping record for the year 2005.

Month	Gallons	Month	Gallons
January	51,917,000	July	101,455,000
February	46,282,000	August	100,066,000
March	47,882,000	September	74,821,000
April	55,038,000	October	54,986,000
May	55,414,000	November	48,805,000
June	90,977,000	December	47,516,000
		Total Pumped	775,159,000

The greatest amount pumped in one day was 4,184,000 gallons on 6/27/2005.

Total 2005 Precipitation was 65.06 inches.

The Water Division responded to 6,778 service and emergency calls:

Connected 75 new services for a total of 7,094 active services
Replaced 4,137 meters
Renewed 8 services
Repaired 5 service leaks
Repaired 16 broken water mains
4 – 6" mains 11 – 8" mains 1 – 12" main

In 2005, new subdivisions and water main improvements added to our system:

60' of 4" water main
1,680' of 6" water main
6,060' of 8" water main
1,000' of 12" water main
23 new fire hydrants
58 new valves

We now have a total of 159.9 miles of water mains, 1,428 hydrants and 3,076 street valves in our system.

The Water Division read 20,889 meters, prepared and processed the bills for mailing; 1,816 delinquent notices were mailed and 250 final bills were calculated.

This completed the seventeenth year of our Backflow Prevention Program. Since 1989, we have conducted 303 surveys of facilities to ensure appropriate backflow prevention devices. This year 9 commercial buildings were surveyed. We have 267 testable devices in the system, 150 double check valve assemblies, 103 reduced pressure zone backflow preventers and 14 non-required devices. This year 313 backflow prevention device tests were performed.

In order to meet the requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, we have taken the following samples for analysis:

635 bacteriological
6 nitrate
2 routine chemical
5 nitrite
1 iron
1 manganese
6 arsenic
1 lead
6 secondary contaminants
6 volatile organic compounds (VOC)
1,742 pH
1,732 chlorine residual
16 Trihalomethane
16 Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)
1 Tanic Acid
7 sodium

Our meter modernization program is almost completed with 99 % of the town's meters now utilizing the newest radio read technology. During the past year, water division personnel have changed 4,137 residential and commercial meters. With the installation of the new meters we are now able to provide quarterly bills for all customers. Frequent billing cycles greatly improve water conservation by allowing consumers to better understand how they use their water and will detect leakage within their home in half the time it previously took.

Construction Of our new well and pumping station #7 was awarded to Dankris Builders Corporation of Plainville, MA. Construction started on March 7, 2005. To date the roadway has been constructed, the new well has been installed and the pump house is almost completed. We anticipate the station to be put online around February 2006.

The contract for the cleaning and painting of the 2,000,000 gallon Washington Street standpipe was awarded to Amstar of Western New York Inc. in the amount of $389,400.00. The storage tank was taken offline on October 3, 2005 to start the project. The tank is expected to be completed well within the 180 day limit and is expected to be put back online during the month of January.

We continue to survey the water system for leaks using conventional and digital correlation technology. We have completed 20 system-wide leak surveys to date. This program enables us to maintain low unaccounted-for water.

This year we performed our 12th consecutive year of system-wide uni-directional flushing program. This program cleans all sediments from the water mains and helps ensure the delivery of safe, clean water to your tap.

The staff continues to educate our peers, students, and the public on water conservation and the operations of the Water Division. We continue to give numerous presentations to Water Works organizations, providing tours and training to Brownie and Girl Scout troops, Children's Museum Science Camp, as well as holding the Annual Open House.

The meeting room at the Easton Water Division office at 417 Bay Road continues to be in high demand, as one of the only town meeting rooms.

We conducted our Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on May 14, 2005 with 524 residents participating at a cost of $12,940.47 to the Town. I would like to thank the Easton Lions Club for their continued effort in assisting in this event with the collection of TV's, computer monitors, and white goods. Our collection day for 2006 has been scheduled for May 13th.

The Water Division hosted its 21st Annual Open House on Saturday, April 30, 2005 with the highlight being the Award Ceremony of our Annual Water Conservation Poster Contest. Hundreds of posters are judged from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. This contest could not be possible without the excellent cooperation of the Easton school system—especially, Dr. William Simmons, School Superintendent, Arnie Casavant, Achim Krasenbrink, Susan Masse, Kathie Hayes, and Betty Minuskin of the Art Department. This contest provides a perfect medium to educate the students to the value of water and the need to protect it.

The Water Division continues to remain leaders in the water works industry. Our employees are dedicated and committed to their jobs. As a manager, it is certainly rewarding to have employees of this caliber and I would like to personally thank all of them for their continued efforts: Shirley Tufts, Janice Jacobson, Karen Gallo, John Fresh, Jr., Raymond Keyes, Richard Mueda, Joshua Ford, Joseph Richard, Christopher Daniels, Michael O'Toole, Jeffery Cloonan, Mark DeCouto and John Siscoe.

"With Water Works Pride"
John J. Marsh
508-230-0850
jmarsh@easton.ma.us

2005 REPORT OF
THE CANOE RIVER AQUIFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee held eleven meetings during the year. The meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month and are rotated within one of the five communities of Easton, Sharon, Foxborough, Mansfield and Norton.

The Committee held its annual Canoe River Awareness Day on Saturday, May 7, 2005 from 8:30 AM to noon at the Mansfield Fish and Game facility on Route #106 in Mansfield. The guest speaker for the event was Leslie Luchonok, Director of the Massachusetts Resource Management Planning Program.

The Land Preservation Society of Norton honored the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee on Earth Day for the Committee's special contribution to preserving the environment in Norton and its surroundings. The Committee also received special recognition for its persistence in negotiating with the State of Massachusetts Administration regarding the surplus I-495 land near the Canoe River, returning the ownership to the Town of Norton.

Maurice Goulet, Technical Assistant of the Easton Department of Public Works, gave a Power Point presentation to the Committee on all of the technology aspects of the D.P.W.

Leo Potter was appointed to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Committee as a representative of the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee.

John Sullivan, Mansfield Town Engineer, gave a presentation to the Committee on Mansfield's new Storm Water Management Regulations.

The Committee took a very informative tour of the Willcott Emu Farm in Norton.

Beth Brazil gave a presentation to the Committee on the activities of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, located in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Dave Masciarelli scheduled a Water Conservation Forum in Sharon with the water superintendents of the five communities and Duane LeVangie of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The Committee accepted with regret, the resignation of long time member William Hardin from Easton. His expertise will be greatly missed.

The Committee welcomed new members from Easton, John Fresh, Jr. and Janet Simolari.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne P. Southworth, Chairman
wsouthworth@easton.ma.us

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE WATER RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Water Resource Advisory Commission is charged with the responsibility of advising the town on the adequacy in quantity and quality of the public water supply. The commission is also responsible for recommendations about acquiring land, surface water, and ground water within the town, as well as land or easements necessary to collect, store, purify, and treat water supplies. All of these responsibilities are being handled extremely well by the Easton Water Division.

James D. Mullen Jr. was reappointed to serve another term on the commission.

The commission met during the year on an as needed basis. Superintendent, John Marsh, met with us to keep us informed on Water Division issues:

- Ultraviolet System
- Well #7 Update
- Meter Installation Upgrade
- Quarterly Billing
- Revised web page to include more information for the public
- Consumer Reports and Annual Reports on the web
- Capital Budget Update

We would like to thank John Marsh, Water Superintendent, and Wayne P. Southworth, DPW Director, for their input and continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley E. Tufts, Chair
508-230-0850
e-mail - stufts@easton.ma.us

Water Resource Advisory Commission Members
James D. Mullen, Jr.
Eugene Packer

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE EASTON FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

To The Honorable Board of Selectmen:

I respectfully submit the annual report of the Easton Fire & Rescue Department for the year 2005.

OPERATIONS

2005 was another busy year for the Easton Fire Department. The department responded to a total of 3133 incidents in 2005. A total of 5847 pieces of apparatus were utilized to handle those incidents. The department responded to 45 fires in structures, 27 brush fires, 14 vehicle fires, and 66 other types of fires. The department also responded to 1144 medical emergencies and 433 automobile accidents. A total of 1133 patients were transported to local hospitals. The remainder of the responses can be categorized as either investigations of potentially hazardous situations or public service calls.

Early in 2005, two new firefighter / paramedics joined the Easton Fire Department. Stephen Gellman and Aaron Fisher were appointed to fill an existing vacancy as well as an opening created by the retirement of long-time Easton Firefighter Raymond Phillips. The newly hired firefighters successfully completed the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Recruit Training Program.

The department is currently staffed with 34 uniformed personnel. **Once again I must emphasize that we are under-staffed for a department that is required to cover 29.4 square miles and protect approximately 24,000 residents**. It is getting increasingly difficult to handle the escalating demands for service with the very limited on-duty staffing. The incidence of multiple emergency calls taking place simultaneously increases each year as the town continues to grow. Citizens are being forced to wait for dangerously long periods of time for the arrival of emergency vehicles because the on-duty personnel are committed to other calls. Even with the addition of new personnel, we still have one unfilled vacancy (the Deputy Chief's position that was lost through attrition in January of 2002). Our current staffing level remains below what it was back in the late 1980s (35 personnel). The Fire Department budget has also suffered major reductions in the salary overtime accounts over the past several years ($140,000 in fiscal year 2002 and $76,000 in fiscal year 2005). As a result of the staffing shortage, one of our 3 fire stations (Station # 2 on Depot St.) had to be closed for a considerable amount of time during the year (18% of the time). It was closed for 88 day time shifts and 43 night time shifts. Unfortunately this trend will continue until additional staffing can be hired. Closing a station is a dangerous practice for several reasons. First of all, due to the size of the town and the poor road networking system (as pointed out by the Fire Study conducted by consultants in 1997.), three stations are needed to provide adequate coverage. With a station closed, the response times increase. In an emergency situation time can be a critical factor in determining the outcome of that situation. The closing of the Central Street Bridge will further negatively impact response times to and from that area of town. Secondly, the reason a station is closed is due to insufficient on-duty personnel to man the apparatus. We man our apparatus with only 2 firefighters (far below the accepted minimum national standard of 4). With insufficient staffing, the safety of the personnel responding to the needs of the community is jeopardized. Closing a station also hinders our ability to respond to multiple calls. As mentioned above, with increasing frequency there are times when all available on-duty personnel are committed to one call leaving no one available to respond to the next incident. We do have a method in place to call back off-duty personnel, but the number of call back personnel is minimal and unpredictable. We are forced to rely on mutual aid apparatus to respond to calls in our own town. Mutual aid is a vital part of any emergency response system, but the response times can be lengthy.

To emphasize how critical the situation has become, in 2005 Easton Fire Department apparatus (fire trucks and ambulances) responded on mutual aid to assist all our surrounding communities 79 times. Yet we had to call apparatus in from other communities 123 times to assist us. There were 1133 patients transported to area hospitals last year. 172 of those patients were transported by out of town ambulances. Not only were

there delays in providing emergency service waiting for the mutual aid ambulances to arrive, but there was also a loss of revenue to the Town of Easton (the transporting ambulance bills for services). From the chart below, you can see that each year we are increasingly relying on our neighboring communities to provide the services we cannot provide with current staffing levels.

Patients transported by mutual aid ambulances

1997 = 62 or 6.9%
1998 = 68 or 7.7%
1999 = 80 or 9.4%
2000 = 116 or 10.3%
2001 = 103 or 10.2%
2002 = 125 or 12.7%
2003 = 137 or 14%
2004 = 147 or 14%
2005 = 172 or 15%

Mutual aid is a concept that has been utilized by the fire service for over a century. It is a system designed to help every city and town deal with those **unusual incidents** that a community cannot handle on their own. After the events of September 11, 2001 local fire and police departments are expected to be the "first line of defense" against terrorist activities and events involving weapons of mass destruction. However with current staffing levels, we must rely on mutual aid just the handle the day-to-day routine calls. With all neighboring cities and towns experiencing financial difficulties, mutual aid may not be as reliable as it has been in the past. This will further reduce our ability to provide the emergency services expected and demanded by the citizens of Easton.

It must be noted at this time that during the period from May 5, 2005 until June 23, 2005 the Department of Public Health did not allow our paramedics to practice at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) level. In late March, inspectors from the DPH Office of Emergency Medical Services found some deficiencies in our ALS system. The deficiencies noted have been corrected. Our full ALS Ambulance license was restored on June 23rd for a provisional 6-month period. Inspectors returned in the fall to conduct a follow-up inspection. They found that all the deficiencies had been corrected and our ambulance service was operating as a "model program". During the time period we were without the ALS portion of our license, we still responded to all medical emergencies. Even though we relied on mutual aid ALS ambulances to transport patients requiring ALS treatment (33%), we still transported 67% of the patients. On December 31, 2005 our ambulance license was renewed for a full year at the ALS level. We are no longer on provisional status.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Firefighting and emergency medical training are vital to ensuring that the Easton Fire Department is able to respond effectively and efficiently to the many calls for assistance that we receive. Most of the training is conducted "in-service" while the personnel are on duty, but many members take advantage of training and educational opportunities on their own "off-duty" time. Captain James Walsh is the department's training officer and coordinates the training activities. We frequently work directly with the instructors and training staff of the Department of Fire Services Massachusetts Firefighting Academy as well as training instructors from surrounding communities. This ensures that firefighting practices and procedures keep pace with new advances in technology and tactics.

Firefighter / Paramedic Timothy Vamosi completed a Hazardous Materials training program and is now certified at the Hazardous Materials Technician level. This extensive training will not only serve the citizens of Easton, but will enable him to join the State's District # 1 Hazardous Materials Response Team sometime in the future

On an annual basis all EMTs, from the basic level to the paramedic level, are required to complete many hours of continuing education in order to improve their ability to deliver high quality medical care. Our EMS Training Coordinator FF / Paramedic Brendan McCarthy and Advanced Life Support coordinator FF / Paramedic Evan Malone conduct most of the medical training for department members along with offering CPR and first-aid training to various groups in the community. Doctor Henry Crowley has been contracted to be our ambulance service medical director and is committed to providing oversight over the entire medical delivery system. He will also conduct monthly training sessions for all of our medical personnel.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND FIRE PREVENTION

The most important function of any Fire Department is to prevent the occurrence of situations that produce injury, death, destruction to property or negatively impact our environment. We try to accomplish this through our Public Education and Fire Prevention division.

The S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) Program is now in its 11th year. This program is a cooperative effort between firefighters, school principals, teachers, and students. The program was originally developed and funded through a state grant. This year, due to cuts in the state's budget, the grant funding was significantly less then what was received in previous years. However, I am very proud to say that this extremely important and successful program was presented to elementary school students, all though on a "scaled back" manner through the determined efforts of Captain Dave Beals, FF Larry Blye and FF Chris Mills. We were successful in obtaining grant funding for an additional year. The educational program has been expanded slightly to include presentations to senior citizens and other civic groups. We hope the program continues to grow in the future.

The demands on the Fire Prevention office are continuing to increase. A great deal of new construction is taking place in Easton at this time. Captain John Howard is the department's fire prevention officer. He is responsible for reviewing the construction plans for all new buildings to ensure they meet the ever-changing fire codes. He is also responsible for conducting hundreds of inspections throughout the year. In addition to the annual inspection of all businesses licensed by the town, all schools and nursing homes were inspected.

New regulations contained in MGL Chapter 304 went into effect this year. The new law regulates certain existing places of assembly with occupancies of 100 or more people. It also regulates the construction of new occupancies of 50 or more people. The new regulations require that more detailed inspections be conducted by both the fire and building departments. New regulations are being developed that will require the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in various occupancies. The new regulations will go into effect on March 31, 2006.

FIRE ALARM

Captain James Walsh and FF William Wolffe performed repairs and maintenance procedures to the municipal fire alarm system. Several new radio activated fire alarm boxes were installed during the year. Master alarm boxes activated by a building's internal fire alarm system were installed at the following locations; Highland Plaza, Walgreens, Mobil Express, Preston Place, and Oliver Ames High School.

APPARATUS AND STATIONS

A new pumping engine (Engine # 5) was placed in service in January. This new truck replaced a 1974 Maxim pumper that broke down in April of 2003.

A 1992 Emergency-One pumping engine (Engine # 1) was refurbished by Greenwood Emergency Vehicles in October and placed back in service. This vehicle should serve the town well for another 10 years.

On February 5, 2005 we received word from Congressman Stephen Lynch that our "2004 Assistance to Firefighters" Grant application had been approved. We were awarded a federal grant in the amount of $250,000 to purchase a new pumping engine. The federal government portion of the grant is in the amount of $225,000 (90%). Under the grant program the Town of Easton is responsible for the remaining $25,000 (10%). At the annual town meeting in May 2005, voters approved the $25,000. The bid to manufacture

the new truck was awarded to Emergency-One. We are expecting delivery around mid-April 2006. The new engine will replace a 1981 pumping engine (Engine # 4) that is in extremely poor condition.

Ambulance # 2, a 1999 Horton, is starting to show signs of 6-years worth of wear and tear. It currently has just under 80,000 road miles on it. It should be replaced in fiscal year 2007.

Fire Station # 2 on Depot Street, our oldest station, is in need of repairs or replacement. This station was built in 1934 under a Federal WPA project. The Fire Study committee concluded that a three-station configuration is necessary to adequately cover the Town. Of our three stations, the Depot Street station is most ideally located. It offers immediate access to the Town's only major east / west connector (Route 123) and is closest to our main north / south connector (Route 138). The Town will face some financially difficult years in the near future. But the Town must decide to either make some major repairs to the present Depot Street Station or build a new building.

PERSONNEL

As mentioned earlier, 2 new firefighter / paramedics (Stephen Gellman and Aaron Fisher) were appointed in February. They are ready to serve the Town of Easton and we hope they have very successful and safe careers with the Easton Fire Department.

In January 2005, Firefighter Raymond Phillips retired. He served the department and community in a very admirable and professional manner for the past 25 years. His experience and expertise as a firefighter and emergency medical technician will be missed. We wish him the best for a long and healthy retirement.

The members of the Easton Fire & Rescue Department continue to donate many hours of their own time in order to ensure that the department responds efficiently to the needs of the community. I would like to thank all of them for their commitment to this effort.

Mission Statement:

> "The Easton Fire & Rescue Department is committed to protecting the people, property, and environment within our community. We will be responsive to the needs of our citizens by providing rapid, professional, humanitarian services essential to the health, safety, and well being of the community. We will accomplish our mission through fire prevention, fire safety awareness education, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and other related emergency and non-emergency activities. We will actively participate in our community, serve as role models, and strive to effectively and efficiently utilize all of the necessary resources at our command to provide a product deemed excellent by our citizens. ALWAYS READY, PROUD TO SERVE".

TO REPORT A FIRE OR ANY EMERGENCY, DIAL 911

For other Fire Department business or assistance, Dial 508-230-3311

Additional phone numbers;

Fire Chief's Office 508-230-0750
Fire Prevention Office 508-230-0750
Fax Number 508-238-2891

CONCLUSION

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the officers, firefighters, and the department's administrative secretary (Pam Berglund) as well as the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, all the Department heads and members of the various Town boards and committees for their assistance over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Stone, Fire Chief

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

www.eastonpd.com

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Year 2005.

The Town of Easton Police Department continues its efforts to prevent crime and ensure safety while protecting the civil rights of those in our community. Inadequate funding, resulting in an insufficient number of police personnel, continues to be the most difficult obstacle facing the police department. For the past two decades the demand for police service has been increasing and our ability to meet those demands has been reduced.

During the course of the year an emphasis has been placed on traffic enforcement, resulting in a decrease in both property damage and personal injury accidents, while at the same time we experienced an increase in the number of traffic citations written and driving under the influence arrests.

Once again Officer Keith Nunes was activated by the National Guard and for several months was stationed at Otis Air Base in support of the hurricane Katrina victims. He has since returned to his police duties.

Currently the Department is facing several new challenges such as preparing thorough training for a possible terrorist attack, planning a response to a flu pandemic, developing strategies to investigate the criminal use of the internet and the growing abuse of heroin and oxycontin.

Our Community Policing efforts have been expanded to include the education of the public on such important topic as bullying, internet fraud and sexual exploitation, identity theft and substance abuse.

Office James McAvoy has remained very active with Easton's Triad, a collaboration of the Bristol Country Sheriffs Department, the Easton Police Department and seniors from the Easton area.

Officer Denise Papagno, the Domestic Violence Officer, continues to chair the Easton Family Violence Task Force. The task force is committed to eliminating family violence through awareness, prevention, education and early intervention. The task force continues to offer anti-bulling and teen dating violence prevention programs in the Easton Public Schools. This year they facilitated safety nights for parents which included topics of bullying and internet safety. They continue to collaborate with H.U.G.S. II to promote safety and support victims.

Civil Rights Officer George Allen has investigated several incidents of racist leaflet droppings and malicious damage. He has worked closing with the Anti Defamation League and Easton's No Place for Hate Committee throughout the year.

2005 STATISTICS

TOTAL INCIDENTS	11716
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS	
Murder	0
Suicides	1
Attempted Suicides	10
Rapes	0
Sexual Assaults	3
Robberies	11
Assault & Battery/Weapons	5
Assault & Battery	44

PROPERTY CRIMES

BREAK & ENTRIES

B & E Residence	35
B & E Motor Vehicle	35
B & E Business	25
B & E Attempts	15

LARCENIES

Larcenies over $250	88
Larcenies under $250	93
Larceny of Motor Vehicles	14
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles	9
Shoplifting	7

In Custody

ARRESTS	276
Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs	46
Protective Custody	14

MISCELLANEOUS TYPES

Domestic Situations	218
Domestic Violence	32
Disturbance	87
Disorderly Persons	18
Noise Complaints	176
General Service	702
Missing Persons	34
Vandalism	224
Alarms	1309
Annoying Phone Calls	57
Animal Complaints	323
Barking Dog Complaints	15

ACCIDENTS

Fatal Accidents	1
Property Damage Accidents	492
Personal Injury Accidents	99

CITATIONS

Traffic Citations	3436

PROBLEMS OR COMMENTS

Police Chief Thomas Kominsky tkominsky@easton.ma.us
Lieutenant Allen Krajcik akrajcik@easton.ma.us

Telephone number 508-230-3322

MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

"The mission of the Easton Police Department is to protect life, property, and the constitutional rights of all citizens. This can be achieved by working in harmony with the community we serve, committed to the conviction that by working together our community has the ability to form its own destiny."

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Kominsky
Chief of Police

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

The Animal Control Department is responsible in enforcing the State, county and local government animal laws. We pro citizens from intimidation and injury from animals. We also protect animals from health hazards, especially rabies and fr abuse, neglect and inhumane treatment.

The Animal Control Officers for the Town of Easton may be reach by calling (508) 230-3353 in case of an emergency (508) 230-3322.

We would like to thank all the owners who are in compliance with the license laws. Licensing your dog is a valuable tool because it gives us information about the rabies vaccination and ownership of the dog. This information is extremely important to us in case of a bite incident, or contact between your dog and wildlife, or if a vehicle strikes your dog. A licensed dog shall wear the license around its neck or on its body on a collar or harness.

A rabies vaccination by law is required for all dogs and cats. A collar to identify the owner of your cat would be a great assist in getting the cat returned to the owner if found.

We would like to thank Marie Graca and Maureen Call for their time and effort in composing a list of all dog owners in th Town; this is invaluable tool which helps us to follow up on unlicensed dogs.

Seven animals were submitted to the State Lab Virology Division for testing. The animals submitted for testing were tw one fox, three bats and one raccoon.

West Nile Virus is still around. We sent four birds into the lab to be tested. The Massachusetts Department of Public Hea has a new protocol for submitting dead birds to the State lab. They are as follows; if specimen is a crow or blue jay, has b dead less than twenty-four hours, and is intact and free of maggots, flies and ants, it can be tested.

ANIMAL CONTROL STATISTICS

Calls received	1832
Complaints	1373
General Info	459
Missing animals	114
Dogs picked up	27
Dead animals	204

Nineteen dogs were returned to their owners or adopted. Eight dogs were turned over to rescue leagues. Seven cats, six ra and three raccoons were turned over to the MSPCA. Every possible attempt is made to find homes for unwanted animals

Calls for sightings of wildlife are increasing due to the diminishing of their habitat. This causes them to prey closer to the populated areas to find food. Make sure dog and cat food are not left outside and garbage is properly covered.

We are continuing to pursue owners of unlicensed dogs, unleashed dogs, dog bites, and nuisance complaints with hearing at the Police Station. This is part of the Police Department's efforts to reach out to the community, using a Community Oriented Policy Philosophy. Lieutenant Allen Krajcik has conducted numerous hearings at the station with many compla being solved. This also saves our citizens from going to Taunton District Court.

Dead animals picked up; twenty-seven cats, thirty raccoons, thirteen opossums, fifty-two deer, four dogs, three coyotes, si skunks, six foxes, nine rabbits, one woodchuck, eight bats, twelve squirrels, one seagull, one hawk, two snakes, one otter a eighteen birds.

We would like to thank the Police Chief, Dispatches, members of the Police and Fire Departments, Town Administrator, the Executive Assistant, Administrator Secretary, Board of Selectmen, Town Clerks, Board of Health and the DPW for their cooperation and support.

Respectfully submitted,

John Melin ACO
Elizabeth DeRosa ACO

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

I hereby submit to you the annual report of the Office of the Inspector of Buildings and Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Single Family Dwellings	47
Multiple Family Dwellings	1
Additions-Residential	136
Alterations-Residential	161
New Commercial	9
Additions-Commercial	15
Alterations-Commercial	44
Demolished Buildings	22
Signs	59
Temporary Signs	17
Swimming Pools	36
Roofs	130
Siding	51
Replacement Windows/Doors	46
Temporary Tents	11
Earth Removal	2
Wood Stoves	21
Yard Sales	99
Foundations	64
Certificate of Inspections	48
Certificate of Occupancy	87

TOTALS

TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION:		$ 77,117,480.00
Total Building Fees Collected		$ 346,550.00
Total Number of Daily Building Inspections	1675	
Total Number of Wiring Fees Collected		$ 60,375.00
Total Number of Wiring Permits Issued	749	
Total Number of Gas Fees Collected		$ 15,145.00
Total Number of Gas Permits Issued	328	
Total Number of Plumbing Fees Collected		$ 41,035.00
Total Number of Plumbing Permits Issued	386	
Total Number of Mechanical Fees Collected		$ 2,246.00
Total Number of Mechanical Permits Issued	15	
Total Fees Collected for the Year 2005		$ 463,451.00

Telephone: 508-230-0580 Fax: 508-230-0589 email: mtrivett@easton.ma.us
kgreiner@easton.ma.us
sheath@easton.ma.us

Office Hours: Monday: 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 pm.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Susan Heath, Building Department Secretary
D. Mark Trivett, C.B.O., Inspector of Buildings, Zoning Enforcement Officer
Paul DeBaggis, Local Inspector, Zoning Enforcement Officer
Kevin S. Greiner, Electrical Inspector
Robert Govey, Plumbing and Gas Inspector
Margaret (Peg) Horne, Board of Appeals Secretary
John F. Amorim, Assistant Electrical Inspector
Bart Carlson, Assistant Plumbing and Gas Inspector

Responsibilities:

- Provide highest level of service to protect and support residents and those doing business in Easton through effective enforcement of State Building Codes and Town By-Laws.
- Perform plan reviews and issue permits for building, plumbing, gas, electrical, roofing, siding, replacement windows, pools, signs, wood stoves, HVAC systems, fire protection systems and demolition work.
- Provide prompt, fair and accurate inspections related to each permit.
- Issue certificates of occupancy upon completion of a project.
- Inspect and certify buildings, businesses and occupancies related to annual licensing and code requirements.
- Investigate complaints and zoning violations. Determine zoning compliance.

There were 47 building permits issued for new single-family homes in 2005, a significant decrease from 80 new dwellings in 2004. However, the number of permits increased for residential additions and alterations. The total estimated cost of residential construction for the year 2005 was $25,160,952.00.

Commercial construction jumped to $18,958,741.00 of estimated cost in 2005. A building permit was also approved for renovations and additions at the Easton Junior High School with an estimated cost of $22,520,000.00. The permit fees were waived for this project.

Wiring, plumbing, gas and mechanical permit revenues totaled $118,801.00 and the Building Department collected fees in the amount of $463,938.00 in the year 2005.

Again I would like to thank a dedicated and talented staff and all Town Departments for their assistance and support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Mark Trivett, CBO
Inspector of Buildings
Zoning Enforcement Officer

2005 REPORT OF
THE EASTON PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

We hereby submit the following report for the Year 2005 for the Easton Planning & Zoning Board. The Board continues to work responsibly with the administration and implementation of the Flexible Development Zoning By Laws adopted at Town Meeting in February 2000. These flexible zoning by-laws include Adult Retirement Developments, Open Space Residential Developments, Residential Compounds, Estate Lots and Common Driveways. These creative land planning and growth management tools have assisted with meeting the following community objectives:

- Encouraging more environmentally sensitive development;
- Preserving larger tracts of open space within or adjacent to new developments;
- Preserving Easton's remaining rural character;
- Minimizing long-term operating costs to the town through the approval of more private ways;
- Reducing the number of driveway cuts on a way thereby minimizing any public safety threat.

Specifically, the Planning and Zoning Board, acting as Special Permit Granting Authority, approved or denied ten (10) separate Flexible Development applications. This includes three (3) Residential Compound Special Permit applications, four (4) Estate Lot Special Permit applications and three (3) Common Driveway Special Permit applications. Two (2) Common Driveways were approved and one (1) was denied.

In 2005, the Board met a total of twenty-three (23) times on Wednesday nights. The Board also had site walks or a special meeting at a proposed development five times during the year. In addition to the Special Permit Applications, the Board addressed Approval Not Required Plans, Preliminary Subdivision Plans, Definitive Subdivision Plans and Site Plan Applications.

Thirteen (13) "Form A" – Approval Not Required Plans were endorsed. These plans represent potential building lots which have adequate frontage on an existing way that did not require approval under the Subdivision Control Law (MGL, Chapter 41). Some of these plans created new lots and others combined existing lots into one.

Four (4) Preliminary Subdivision Plans were approved by the Board. They included Friesian Farms (3 lots- Randall Street); Bodio Estates (7 lots- Washington Street); Thirty-Three Bay Road (10 lots); and Schofield Estates (12 lots- Dean Street). One Preliminary Subdivision Plan was withdrawn without prejudice. This was Eagle Point Estates a three lot subdivision off Purchase Street.

Six (6) Definitive Subdivision Plans were submitted during 2005. Three (3) of these plans were submitted in conjunction with Special Permit applications for Residential Compounds as noted above. Border Estates, a conventional seven lot subdivision located off of Bay Road was approved by the Board. At the end of 2005, the Board still had made no decision on Ashfield Estates a proposed three lot subdivision off of Dean Street. Guinevere Road Extension, a proposed two lot subdivision, was withdrawn without prejudice. Mayflower Estates, a five lot Residential Compound was denied by the Board. Somerville Woods, a four lot Residential Compound was withdrawn without prejudice. Stonemoor Estates, an application for a proposed seven lot Residential Compound, was still being heard by the Board at the end of the year.

Sixteen (16) Site Plans were approved in 2005. They included site plans for Walgreens Pharmacy (Foundry Street); CVS Pharmacy (Depot Street); North Easton Savings Bank (Foundry Street); Exxon Mobil (Foundry Street & Bay Road); Fernandes Lumber (Depot Street); Stone Forge Restaurant (Washington Street); Medical Office Building (15 Roche Bros. Way); 356 Turnpike Street; Easton Gas (200 Washington Street); 171 Washington Street; 9 Mechanic Street; Ames Free Library; 295 Main Street; 2-4 Washington Street; 566 Washington Street; 690 Washington Street.

Additional Board and Staff time was spent on the following types of business:

- Public Hearings – Acceptance of Streets
- Public Hearings – Modification of Previously Approved Definitive Subdivisions
- Public Hearings - Modification of Previously Approved Special Permits
- Modifications to Previously Approved Site Plans
- Public Hearings – Amendments to the Zoning Map and Zoning By Law
- Release of Surety for Completion of Roadways and Related Improvements
- Recommendations on cases to be heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals
- Commenting on License Renewal applications pending before the Board of Selectmen
- Working with developers to complete Unfinished Roads
- Administration and follow-up related to the implementation of Special Permit Approvals
- Meeting with Potential Development Applicants
- Actively participating in Development Review Committee Meetings
- Monitoring proposed Smart Growth Legislation dealing with Land Use / Zoning Reform
- Advocating and implementing improvements to the Planning Process

The Board appreciates the professional abilities, accomplishments and dedication to outstanding public service provided by Town Planner Marc R. Rousseau, AICP. In August 2005, Cheryll-Ann Senior, part-time Recording Secretary, left the employ of the Town of Easton to take a position in the private sector. We would like to thank her for the excellent administrative support she provided to the Board and Town Planner. The position of Recording Secretary was subsequently filled by Carol Mandeville. Also, the Board expresses its sincere gratitude to Town Administrator Martha L. White for all of her professional assistance and support, the Board of Selectmen, Robert G. Dunn, Land Use Engineer, the various Town Departments, Boards and Commissions for their cooperation and support and most importantly, to the citizens of Easton for their support and cooperation as we attempt to perform our statutory responsibilities.

In closing, any fellow citizen of Easton wishing to discuss an issue of concern may communicate this matter by calling the Planning & Zoning Board Office at 508-230-0630 or by contacting the Town Planner by Email at MROUSSEAU @ EASTON.MA.US. The Board also maintains an Internet presence on the Town of Easton web site.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Kone, Chairman
Colin W. Gillis, Esq., Clerk
Christine M. Santoro, Esq., Member
Alan Weeks, Member
Walter H. Johnson, Member
Joseph McParland, Alternate Member

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

We, the members of the Board of Appeals respectfully submit the following annual report for the year 2005.

The Board of Appeal's responsibilities are to hear applications filed for Special Permits, Variances and Administrative Appeals pursuant to Chapter 40A, Mass. General Laws. Forty-Two (42) petitions, comprised of fifteen (15) Variances; twenty-six (26) Special Permits; and one (1) Site Plan were received by the Board of Appeals during the year, which in conformity with the law, were duly advertised and copies of notices were given to all Town Boards and mailed to all parties of interest as defined in Section 11, Chapter 40A, Mass. General Laws.

In 2005, Steven Johnson resigned from his position on the Board of Appeals. The Board of Selectmen appointed Stephen Pinzari as a full Board Member.

The Board of Appeals would like to thank Steven Johnson for his contribution to the Board during his tenure.

	Comprehensive Permit	Variance	Special Permit	Site Plan
Petitions Granted		9	24	1
Petitions Denied		3	1	
Petitions Withdrawn/Dismissed		3		
Chapter 40B	2			
Continued to 2006	2			
To Be Heard in 2006			1	

The Board wishes to recognize and commend all Town Officials and personnel who provided assistance to the Board during the year.

The Board of Appeals Secretary can be reached at the Town Offices at (508)230-0590.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Mirrione, Chairman
John Tupper, Vice-Chairman
Thomas Pursley, Clerk
August Gangi
Stephen Pinzari
Christopher Pike, Alternate
Frederick W. Clark Jr., Alternate

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE EASTON BOARD OF HEALTH

In compliance with the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, it is our pleasure to herewith submit to you a summary of the work done under the Board of Health for the year 2005.

Mr. Gil Heino was elected to a three-year term at the annual election in April. Mr. Robert J. Kane was elected Chairman. Staff included Director of Public Health Mr. Wade D. Saucier, R.S., C.H.O., Assistant Health Director Ms. Kristin C. Kennedy, R.S., Food Inspector Ms. Yvonne Naimey, Administrative Assistant/Burial Agent Ms. Jo A. Pilz, Clerk/Burial Agent Ms. Teressa M. Wooding, Animal Inspector Mr. John D. Melin and Animal Inspector Ms. Elizabeth J. DeRosa. Mr. Saucier and Ms. Kennedy maintained their education requirements for their state licenses by attending numerous professional education classes throughout the year. Mr. Kane, Mr. Heino and Dr. Roger Kligler attended an annual certification seminar for Boards of Health. This seminar educated the Board members on public health issues and laws.

The Board of Health met 25 times in public meeting forum this year.

The Board of Health responsibilities are numerous, varied and focused on overall community health. Our responsibilities can be viewed on our website. www.easton.ma for your convenience.

The Board of Health was awarded $18,000 through the Bristol County Community Service Grant Program. The funding was approved to purchased defibrillators and mannequins for CPR training. The defibrillators will be placed in a number of public school buildings as well as the Town Hall Office Building. The different age mannequins purchased will allow diversified training opportunities and flexibility to provide more life saving CPR training. The action from this grant will enhance the public's health and safety within the community.

The Board of Health implemented the stroke program to aid the survival of stroke victims. The program, a joint effort of the Board of Health, Caritas Good Samaritan Medical Center and the Fire Department focuses on early recognition and response to symptoms of stroke and on life-saving treatment. This program will be ongoing.

The Board of Health adopted "Easton Board of Health Tight Tank Policy for Funeral Homes" on December 19, 2005. This policy requires all funerals homes operating in the town to discharge their commercial waste into an approved tight tank by January 1, 2007. The purpose of this policy is to protect ground water from a known business that creates hazardous waste. The town is predominantly served by on-site septic systems. The conventional septic system provides no protection in removing hazardous waste from a funeral home's embalming operation.

The Board of Health determined that the Belcher Corporation, LLC was discharging hazardous waste in their domestic sanitary wastewater system. In conjunction with the efforts of the Department of Environmental Protection, the plant will add a wastewater recovery system. This recovery system will divert contaminated wastewater from the shower room and be rerouted into the plant's operation. The recycled water reflects good water use practices by Belcher Corporation. This change in operation will bring their on-site wastewater discharge permit into compliance at the local level.

The Town Administrator formed a committee to review the town's residential solid waste removal. Mr. Saucier was asked to be part of this group. The committee looked at options using a single vendor. The committee's work will be ongoing.

In our continuous effect in community involvement, Mr. Saucier and Ms. Naimey participated in The Southeastern Regional School Shadow Day Program. Two students from the culinary arts program shadowed the department for an entire week. The students participated in the daily food inspection program of the office. The students were then required to write a paper and a presentation to their class. One of the students, Ms. Angela Yankauskas, has decided to pursue a public health career after she graduates from school.

Public health nursing services were provided by contractual agreement with Health Care Options, Inc., an affiliate of Community Visiting Nurse Agency (CVNA) of Attleboro. Ms. Maureen Cardarelli, R.N. completed this year as the town's contact nurse. In June, Ms. Chris Delano, R.N, left her position with Health Care Options. Ms. Delano provided the town with over a decade of excellent service and professional advice and will be missed. The cumulative statistics for the 2005 calendar year are as follows: Total Immunizations, 905 residents, including 871 influenza immunizations (167 for 2004/2005 season); Mantoux testing, 6 residents; Lead Level Screening, 0; Health Promotion Clinics, 147 residents including 122 residents for Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar and 25 for Total Cholesterol Screening; Communicable Disease, 49 investigations; Maternal Child, 0 contacts; Latent Tuberculosis Infections, 10 follow ups of reported cases. The CVNA also served as the vaccine distribution center to a number of providers within the community for the Board of Health. We also provided a public health nurse for one hour each month (every fourth Monday), at the Town Offices, for town residents or employees. The nurse is available for Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar screenings and information regarding your health or the health of your loved ones.

The rabies epizootic still exists in town. Preventative measures to protect your domestic pets are advised. In the spring of 2005, two rabies clinics were held. On April 17, 2005, 62 dogs and 21 cats were vaccinated. On May 23, 2005, 20 dogs and 10 cats were vaccinated. A total of 113 animals were vaccinated by the program. The State of Massachusetts requires that all dogs and cats be vaccinated for rabies.

The West Nile Virus (WNV) and the Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV) are both a public health concern. State wide, for the West Nile Virus, there were 6 human cases (1 fatality), 83 birds, 0 horses and 99 mosquito pools that had tested positive for the virus. At the local level 16 birds were reported, 3 birds were submitted to the state lab and 1 birds tested positive. For the Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus, state wide, there were 45 mosquito pools, 4 human (2 fatalities), 4 horses and 1 Emu that were confirmed as positive cases. At the local level there were 7 mosquito pools that tested positive for the virus. Both viruses are passed on from the bird population to the mosquito. The virus is then passed on to the mosquito's next host(s), human or animal, when the female mosquito draws blood for her eggs to develop inside her. As a preventative measure to control the viruses, Bristol County Mosquito Control Project offers an adult mosquito spraying program each spring which continues throughout the summer months. The spraying is done on request by either local residents or city/town officials. The telephone number for Bristol County Mosquito Control is 508-823-5253.

The Southeastern Regional School was granted an emergency spraying for mosquitoes in September.

There were 744 permits issued by the Board of Health. The breakdown is as follows: Body Art Establishment, 0; Body Art Practitioner, 0; Camps/Motels/Trailer Parks, 12; Caterers, 5; Dumpsters, 190; Dumpster Service, 12; Food Establishments, 153; Funeral Directors, 4; Disposal System Construction Permits, 185; Disposal Works Installer Permits, 79; Massage Licenses, 26; Mobile Food, 5; Outdoor Sanitary Facilities, 0; Public/Semi-public Swimming Pools, 13; Tanning Facilities ,4; Tobacco Sales Permits, 37; and Transport Offal, 19.

The office logged 19 valid complaints from the general public. If you have any questions, concerns, need advice or information, you may reach our office at 508-230-0620.

The Board appreciates the cooperation of the various town boards and departments and continues to work closely with the Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies of the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Kane, Chairman
Gil A. Heino
Dr. Roger M. Kligler

EASTON BOARD OF HEALTH

2005 REPORT OF
THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

We are the officers in the field for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Biosecurity and Regulatory Services, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the local Board of Health. We work closely with the Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and The Animal Rescue League. We receive advice from and work with the practicing veterinarians and have knowledge and experience in handling common urban wildlife. Our office may be reached by calling 508-230-3353 or 508-230-0620.

Our office responded to many calls involving issues with wildlife this year in which we either gave advice or sometimes trapped or destroyed the animal. We educate the public on issues of animal diseases, investigate all animal bites and issue quarantine and confinement notices. We check on the handling and care of domestic livestock and other domestic animals we have as pets.

The West Nile Virus is still in our area. We picked up seventeen birds this year. Three were submitted to the State Lab and all tested negative. The Department of Public Health has to be called before submitting birds for testing and they have strict guidelines for testing such as the type of bird, dead less than twenty-four hours and the bird must be free of maggots, flies or ants.

This year there were nineteen animal bites. Sixteen dogs and three cats were placed under a ten day quarantine period. Three dogs and twelve cats were placed under a confinement notice which can be from forty-five days to a six month confinement depending on whether the animal has a valid rabies vaccination.

Three bats, two cats, one fox and one raccoon were sent to the Virology Division of the State lab to be tested for rabies. All tested negative.

Animal census: forty-four horses, seventeen goats, twenty-two sheep, thirty-four beef cattle, three swine, and one hundred and seven chickens.

Sightings of wildlife in backyards have increased immensely. These sightings were mostly deer, coyotes, skunks, raccoon's, fisher cats and turkeys. We must remember they are survivors in the wild, so make sure that your yard does not have an easily accessible food source for the animals.

We would like to thank the members of the Board of Health, Director Wade Saucier, Administrative Assistant JoAnne Pilz and Secretary Teressa Wooding. Also thanks to the Town Administrator and her staff, the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk and her staff, the Police Department, the Fire Department and the Department of Public Works. Their help and support throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

John Melin, Animal Inspector
Elizabeth DeRosa, Animal Inspector

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE EASTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Easton Conservation Commission administers, within the Town of Easton, the State Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40 et seq and the Wetlands Protection By-Law, Chapter 227, Code of the Town of Easton with the regulations promulgated thereunder, 310CMR 10.55 et seq. under the Act and Chapter 503 of the Town Code as to the By-Law.

Additionally, the Commission is given primary responsibility for Open Space Planning and Preservation. The Commission has custody and control, for the Town, of the several thousand acres of open space land held for conservation purposes.

Another key area of Commission jurisdiction is enforcement. Violations of the Act and/or By-Law are investigated and where needed, appropriate proceedings follow.

The Commission and its staff are integral to the Town's Land Use and Permitting Department. During the year 2005, the Commission held 88 public hearings, including 180 continued public hearings, with regard to the permitting process wherein applicants come before the Commission seeking approval for work proposed in areas under the Commission's jurisdiction.

In 2005 the Commission had 11 enforcement actions.

Enforcement action occurs when; either through observation by the Commission, its staff, or by citizen complaint, activity is seen on land in violation of The Act or the Bylaw. Many of these situations occur due to a lack of awareness of legal responsibility by individuals. We try to work with these people and, through education, try to avoid violations in the future. Where necessary, however, the Commission has many resources available to remedy violations – civil actions, criminal complaints, injunctive relief, and the imposition of fines, including the Non-Criminal Disposition procedures authorized by Town By-Laws. In general, with the cooperation of all parties, these matters are resolved relatively easily.

Totaling 13.15 acres there were seven land acquisitions during 2005: five off of Caroline Road (5.84 acres); one at 33 Hancock Street (9.66 acres) and one at 10 Shannonmarie Way (3.49 acres)

During the year 2005, the Commission continued reviewing its By-Law Regulations and finalized new regulations relative to the Riverfront Areas. Efforts to streamline regulations to make land permitting easier for all continue.

There are at present two appeals of By-Law decisions pending before the Superior Court, which should be resolved in the coming year.

In June of 2005, Michael G. Sites, a long time member and Chairman, retired from the Commission. All of the members of the Commission thank him for his many years of service to the town and the Commonwealth. We wish him success in his legal practice and life in general. A dinner was held in his honor where the appropriate awards and kudos were handed out.

Barry R. DunKley has been appointed Chairman in his place. Patricia Haederle has replaced Barry as Vice Chairman. The Commission welcomes our newest member Doctor Kyla Bennett. We are sure her expertise in many fields related to our work and her devotion to public service will be a valuable asset to the Commission and its many responsibilities. Jonathon Chase continues as our Associate Member. His assistance to the Commission is greatly appreciated.

The Commission continues to be a resource for advice and information to other Commissions throughout the state. Our By-Law and the Regulations are frequently requested by other Commissions in Massachusetts as they create similar laws in their communities. Though retired from the Commission, Michael G. Sites continued his work with MACC during 2005

The Commission's website is: www.conservationcommission.org. There you will find useful information about the Commission, its schedule and upcoming agendi. There are links to other resources helpful for research and information in the environmental field.

The Commission may be reached via email, feedback on our website, by phone at (508) 230-0640 or by fax at (508) 230-0639. Commission meetings are generally held on alternate Monday evenings, and our meeting schedule is posted on the website. All meetings are open to the public, except for Executive Sessions, and town residents are always most welcome.

The Commission would like to thank for his exemplary service our Agent, Robert G. Dunn. When Mr. Dunn could not get into the field, Charles J. Katuska of EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., continued to assist the Commission.

Our wonderfully efficient and exuberant Secretary, Janice L. Fowler, is invaluable to the functions of the Commission. We constantly are told, as well as receive calls and letters, from the public about her courteous and professional manner during her diligent discharge of her responsibilities. She will be retiring in 2006 much to the dismay and disappointment of all Commission members.

Further, we express our gratitude to M. Yvonne Gonzalez, Esq., and her colleagues at Brackett & Lucas, Town Counsel, as well as to the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, and all appointed and elected Boards and Commissions of the Town. We are grateful to the citizens of the Town of Easton, for their cooperation and their support as we perform the duties entrusted to us.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry R. DunKley, Chairman
(bdunkley@conservationcommision.org)

Patricia A. Haederle, Vice Chairman
(phaederle@conservationcommission.org)
John E. Grant
(jgrant@conservationcommission.org)
Patricia E. Somers
(psomers@conservationcommission.org)
Kyla Bennett, PhD,
(kbennett@conservationcommission.org)

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Historical Commission continues in its efforts to identify, evaluate and protect Easton's historic and archeological resources. The Commission works cooperatively with the Town's other commissions, boards and committees to monitor and help control any effects that development and change can bring to Easton's unique historic character. We are available to any citizen for information and guidance regarding the preservation of historic properties, landscapes and archeological sites in the town of Easton.

During the past year, several members of the Committee were active on other boards and committees of the Town. Member Edmund Hands is on the Community Preservation Committee and on the Board of the Natural Resources Trust of Easton. Associate Member Cathy Adler chairs the Easton No Place for Hate campaign. Dr. Greg Galer is a member of the Town Gown Committee between Stonehill College and the Town of Easton. John Ventrseco is the director of the Friends of Borderland. Melanie Deware is the clerk of the Cemetery Commission. Larry Mowatt is a member of the Library Building Committee.

2005 saw the implementation of the Demolition Permit Review By-Law. This new law provides for the review of any structure 75 years and older slated for demolition. The review seeks to find alternatives to demolition of structures deemed historically significant and worth preservation. This new by-law was triggered several times this year and the Committee worked with several property owners in following the tenets of the new law.

Although finalized in 2004, the Historic Preservation Restriction on the North Easton Grammar School was officially signed in January of this year. The Commission continues to be involved with the owner in the final restoration of this building and site.

2005 saw the much-awaited completed restoration of the 2nd phase of the Rockery in North Easton. This elaborate stone cairn designed by famed Central Park architect F.L. Olmstead had suffered the test of time and the elements in its 100+ year existence. With grant assistance from the Massachusetts Historic Commission, Community Preservation Act funds and intense involvement of the Easton Historic Commission, this symbolic centerpiece of North Easton Village was restored to its original beauty and classic grace. The Commission, in co-operation with the Easton Garden Club, has spent many hours weeding and clearing the surrounding landscape. In addition, local landscape firm Bare Lawn Essentials has agreed to "adopt" the site for a period of 2 years, maintaining and enhancing this majestic touchstone of our Town.

The Commission is involved in recommendation and site review for the Ames Free Library/Oakes Ames Memorial Hall expansion plan as it proceeds to fruition.

Two of the four historic granite mile markers along Bay Road were cleaned and righted to their original positions this year. These markers have been important guides for travelers since colonial times, marking the distance to Boston, Taunton and points south. The Commission continues to work with the Commonwealth in its Historic Road designations, of which Bay Road is part.

The Commission, under Cathy Adler's management and diligence, continued to work on the Historic Preservation Plan. This process entailed developing and distributing surveys and

collecting data from Town officials and citizens to ascertain what areas are felt to be of critical concern for the Commission. Commission members, rather than a consulting firm, are undertaking this ambitious plan.

The Commission took part in the Commemoration of Mrs. Mary Ames Frothingham's award winning rose garden at her Wayside estate (now the Town Offices) in May.

The Commission presented awards again this year at its annual ceremony on December 3rd at the Unity Church. Robert "Buddy" Wooster was presented the W.L.Chaffin Award for his many years of outstanding stewardship of the Frothingham Park and his work chronicling the history of Easton through various types of media. The Dempsey family was awarded the Clement C.Briggs Award for their painstaking and loving restoration and maintenance of the 1805 Oliver Howard house on Short Street.
A record number of people attended the awards, and participated in the annual "Beauty of Easton" photography contest. Many thanks to the Bank of Easton for its continued support, and the Unity Church for its hosting of this popular event.

The Boston Post Cane was presented to Easton's most senior resident, Frances Kramer, in December of this year. Thanks to North Easton Savings Bank for its generous sponsorship of this program.

The Commission welcomes comments and questions and is eager to assist any citizen with issues related to the historical aspect of the Town. Contact us via the Town Offices at 136 Elm Street, North Easton, through our link on the town website: www.easton.ma.us ,or by calling the Chairman at 508.238.0373

Respectfully Submitted,

Melanie J.L. Deware, Chairman
John J. Ventresco, Vice Chairman
Michael J. Russell, Secretary
Dr. Gregory J. Galer
Edmund Hands
James Carlino
Larry Mowatt, Associate Member
Catherine Adler, Associate Member
Frank Mennino, Associate Member

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

The Housing Partnership Committee is charged with the following responsibilities:

1) Assist in the development of and/or updating the Town's Affordable Housing Plan.
2) Explore opportunities to expand affordable housing in accordance with Easton's Affordable Housing Plan; work with the Community Preservation Act Committee to develop ideas eligible for CPA funding; and recommend same to the Board of Selectmen.
3) Participate in the review of all comprehensive permit applications.
4) Develop proposed application materials for comprehensive permits for use by the Committee, Board of Appeals and Board of Selectmen.
5) Submit annual report for inclusion in the Town Report.

During 2005 the Committee worked with the consulting firm of Community Opportunities Group, Inc. to develop An Affordable Housing Production Plan for the Town of Easton. Funding for the development of this plan was obtained from Community Preservation Act funds in addition to funding from private sources. The plan was presented to and accepted by the Board of Selectmen on July 11, 2005. It was then submitted to the state's Department of Housing and Community Development for certification. Once the plan is certified, if the required number of affordable housing units is produced each year, the town will not be obligated to approve 40B projects unless it desires to do so.

After the Board of Selectmen approved the Affordable Housing Production Plan, the Housing Partnership Committee invited members of all other Easton land use boards and committees to a joint meeting on July 14, 2005, where the plan was presented for comments and questions. The plan is currently posted on the Town of Easton web site.

The Housing Partnership is currently working on Comprehensive Permit Review Guidelines which will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen and is intended to communicate the Town of Easton's preferences for housing developed under Chapter 40B. The Committee will again solicit input from the other land use boards and committees prior to implementation of the guidelines. The Zoning Board of Appeals has provided one of its members to act as liaison and advisor to the Housing Partnership and has been meeting regularly with the Committee. Once the Comprehensive Permit Review Guidelines have been implemented, it is expected that the Housing Partnership will become the initial point of contact for all new affordable housing developments, including comprehensive permit applications.

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE HUMAN RESOURCES BOARD

The Human Resources Board was established by Town Meeting vote on January 12, 2004. The 5-member committee was appointed by the Town Moderator and consists of the following members:

Carolyn Carpentier	Chair
Donald Shanbar	Vice Chair
Stephen Delamere	Secretary
Anne-Marie Ofori-Acquaah	Member
Elyese Cicchetti	Member

The Human Resources Board was established for purposes of assisting the Town in matters relating to the Town's human resources/personnel, in particular as it relates to the compensation plans for those employees. During its first year, the Board has been working with a consultant, Mark Morse from MMA Consulting Group, Inc. to complete a new wage and classification study for the non-union employees, as authorized by the January 12, 2004 Town Meeting. This wage study is nearly complete, at which time the Board will work with Town officials to implement the changes indicated by that study.

The Human Resources Board has also worked to assist the Town Administrator on drafting/revision of Town employment policies and has assisted in the hiring process of a key Town employee.

The Human Resources Board looks forward to continuing to work with Town management and officials to support the human resources efforts of the Town of Easton.

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Easton Housing Authority is pleased to present its' annual report for the year 2005. The Authority's 184 state-aided elderly/disabled, 10 state-aided family and 101 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers remained tenanted for the year.

The Easton Housing Authority maintains open waiting lists for all of our programs and grant preference to Easton residents and applicants who work in Easton. Currently the income limits for the elderly/disabled and family housing units are as follows:

One Person	$40,250.00
Two People	$46,000.00
Three People	$51,570.00
Four People	$57,500.00
Five People	$62,100.00
Six People	$66,700.00
Seven People	$71,300.00
Eight or more	$75,900.00

Senior citizens over the age of 60 and who fall within the published income guidelines are eligible to apply for housing at Parker Terrace and Elise Circle. Additionally applicants with a disability who are unable to locate alternative suitable housing may be eligible. Anyone interested in applying for either state-aided public housing programs are encouraged to contact our office for an application and information.

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program waiting list closed on June 30, 2005 with over 2000 applicants.

The Robert J. Keefe Community Center at Parker Terrace continues to be the site for Old Colony Elderly Services congregate lunch program, serving hot lunches Monday through Friday for Senior Citizens, and hosts their Meals on Wheels Program. Additionally, the Authority donates the use of both the Robert J. Keefe Community Center at Parker Terrace and the Jerry Fitzgerald Community Center at Elise Circle for the use of the Council on Aging's senior center programs, including arts and crafts, dancing and exercise, etc.

Anyone interested in applying to the Authority, or wishing to hear more about our programs can contact our office:

By Phone	508-238-4747
By FAX	508-230-9694
By Email	eastonha@aol.com
By Mail	Parker Terrace North Easton, MA 02356

The Authority continues to extend its gratitude to the residents, staff and residents of Easton for its continued support. It is this support that enables the Authority to operate successfully and provide its residents with safe, sanitary and decent housing operating solely on revenues received from tenant rents.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Conant, Chairman
Dennis Sheedy, Vice-Chairman
Michael Malloy, Treasurer
June Brousseau, Assistant Treasurer

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION

Mission: The Easton Recreation Department provides diverse and equitable programs that reach out to the Recreational needs of the community of Easton.

Commission: In the past year, the Easton Recreation department experienced a considerable amount of adversity, relative to budget cuts. Despite this adversity, the Recreation Commission remains strong and dedicated to fulfill the needs of the community. This has been helped in large part by the dedication of the community, which has been sensitive to the Recreation Department's budget cuts during the past several years and has been most generous with supporting the department.
Easton businesses have proven to be most charitable to the Recreation Department in times of need. Due lack of funds, the town pool was planned to be shutdown for the summer of 2006. A volunteer subcommittee of the recreation department was formed to raise funds in efforts to keep the pool open. The sub committee is called "Support the Easton Recreation Department". Over 20 mothers in town came to the rescue of the community. Wonderful people like these say a lot about Easton's integrity and community profile. Community support like this makes Easton an attractive and desirable place to live. The support that we have received makes the future of the department look bright and it is towards the future that we are looking. Due to lack of athletic playing fields in our town the Recreation Commission has taken on a commitment to increase the inventory of these fields within the community. The Department is in the predevelopment phase of building a 15 acre site of athletic playing fields on Foundry Street. This project will be funded by CPA resources. The project is very exciting for the recreation department and represents the strong commitment we have towards bettering recreational space for the town of Easton.

The Recreation Department commission is made up by the following:
Anne Daley – Program Director
Mike McDonald – Chairman
Cathy Habig
Frank Spillane
Charles Hammond
Dave Lang,
Tana Babbitt

The dedication and commitment of this commission has contributed greatly to the success the department has experienced. A large portion of credit is also owed to Anne Daley whose leadership and dedication has helped us to be successful in spite of our difficulties.

We would like to thank the Board of Selectmen, especially Colleen Corona for her commitment to our department. We would also like to thank the CPA Committee and Martha White, our Town Administrator, for supporting our department in every way that they could. This has been very important to us in these trying budgetary times.

Programs: The programs that the Easton Recreation Department offers are:

After School Programs:
Homework Club, Running Club, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Ski Lessons and Chess.

Plus: The Full Day Summer Program, Town Pool & Swimming Lessons, Tee Ball for youngsters, Summer Slam Basketball, Men's Basketball, Co-ed Volleyball, Men's Sunday Morning Softball, Wrestling, Running, Tennis, Archery, Lacrosse, Multi Sports Program, Kids Races in the Summer, and Summer Concerts

Donations and contributions: The HUGS program has been extremely instrumental in supporting the Recreation Department over the past several years. Officer Denise Papagno, the chair of the local HUGS organization, presented a donation of over $9,000 to the Easton Recreation Department. These funds have directly supported our After School Homework Club. This program keeps vulnerable adolescents off the street after school and offers educational services to students. Other donations have come from Mr. Douglas King, Premier Properties, various town businesses, school PACS, and the residents of Easton.

Financial: Our current budget is $15,000. All of the programs listed above are self funded, and have been successful enough to bring in small profits
This year the department has implemented Quick Books to ensure better financial tracking of program costs. Additional finances are strongly desired to expand and grow programs as well as providing additional resources to operate programs and projects.

2006- 2007 Goals and Objectives:

1. To work with other recreational organizations within the Town of Easton to coordinate field and gym space for recreational activities.
2. Complete the Foundry Street project which will add an additional 15 acres of athletic field space to the community.
3. To continue to expand and grow Recreation programs that are self-funding and bring in a profit to offset operational costs of the department.
4. Continue to form sub committees of the Recreation Department to fulfill the needs of the community.

Best Regards,

Michael J. McDonald
Recreation Chairman

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF SELF HELP, INC.

During the program year ending September 30, 2005, Self Help, Inc., received a total funding of approximately $19.3M and provided services to 27,442 limited income households in the area.

In the TOWN OF EASTON, SHI provided services totaling $329,035 to 654 households during program year 2005

Self Help's total funding of $19,296,397 does not tell the real value of services delivered to the area as a whole. This funding enabled us mobilize an additional $1,948.879 of other community resources such as, volunteers, donations of space, and private donations in the form of goods and services. Therefore, the total impact of Self Help, Inc., during the past program year was $21,245,276.

In addition, Self Help currently employs 250 individuals. Many of these individuals are of limited income, and most reside in our service area.

We feel that October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005 was a successful program year for us because we were able to assist as many individuals and/or families as we did, regardless of the challenges of being a human service provider.

We thank the Board of Selectmen of Easton, and its representative, Ms. Doreen Lindsay and all the volunteers for helping us to make fiscal year 2005 a successful one.

Respectfully submitted

Norma Wang
Executive Assistant/Human Resources

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT

During 2005 the Town of Easton's Veterans' Services Department assisted over 225 veterans and/or their dependents.

Forty-six veterans and/or their dependents received $146,477 in financial assistance for household and medical expenses under Chapter 115 of Massachusetts General Laws. This assistance program is open to low income Easton veterans or their dependents who meet the income and asset guidelines that are established by the Commissioner of Veterans' Services. The veterans' benefits issued by the Town of Easton during 2005 were paid from local appropriation. The State will reimburse the Town for 75% of the veterans' benefits issued. In addition to this Benefits Program, Chapter 115 also provided an Annual Annuity of $1,500 to 36 disabled veterans or their dependents paid by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services. Certain 100% service-connected disabled veterans, Gold Star parents, and Gold Star spouses are eligible for this annuity program. Applications are available at this Veterans' Services Department.

The Veterans Administration estimates that veterans from the Town of Easton received over $ 2,200,000 in federal benefits last year. This office filed 16 new claims last year with the Veterans Administration and those veterans received a total of $ 157,778 in federal benefits.

With the help of Easton's veterans' groups and fraternal organizations the Veterans' Services Department was able to assist over twenty-five veterans with a variety of projects including home repairs, moving household items, and hospital transportation.

This office was involved with other town employees and citizens in continuing Operation Mailcall. The purpose of this organization is to help insure that Easton citizens serving in the Armed Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq know how grateful we are for their service.

Other services provided to the veterans of Easton include help in obtaining separation papers, service medals, property tax exemptions, and fuel assistance.

I wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Town Administrator, members of the American Legion Post #7, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2547, and the residents and businesses of Easton for their continued support of our veterans.

Semper Fi

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Nolan
Director of Veterans' Services

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging faced many challenges as it tried to meet the needs of our 3,500 elderly residents and their families during 2005. On July 1st, with the start of a new fiscal year, the COA budget was cut by almost fifty percent, eliminating funding for both our outreach coordinator and our shuttle drivers, as well as drastically reducing our operating expense funds.

Consequently, we had to reduce our shuttle service to 4 days a week and rely on grants and donations to pay driver's wages, vehicle fuel, and repair/maintenance costs. The Council introduced monthly ride passes and discount ride coupons to help our frequent riders who could not afford the increase in the requested ride donation. Along with passenger donations, grants from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Howard Home Trust, Stonehill College, Easton Women of Today, North Easton Savings Bank, Easton Lions Club and the Pvt George F. Schindler Veterans of Foreign Wars Post # 2547 were instrumental in keeping the shuttle vans running.

Due to the loss of funding for the position, outreach efforts were curtailed despite the growing need for services. The Council reluctantly bid farewell to our long time Outreach Coordinator, Priscilla Perron, who had assisted our elderly residents arrange in-home services. Motorcoach trips were eliminated, as Priscilla had coordinated those trips, and we were no longer able to delivery library materials to homebound elders.

Despite reduced staff hours and personnel, the Council on Aging continued to coordinate a variety of programs including the Senior Tax Relief volunteer program, fuel assistance applications, and the monthly foot care clinics. With the help of dedicated volunteers, we distributed the COA monthly newsletter, but had to reduce the mailing list to only those individuals who chose to pay for postage. Our wonderful volunteers delivered meals on wheels and helped our elderly residents with health insurance information and income tax filing.

The Council is grateful to the Easton Housing Authority for the use of their community rooms at Parker Terrace and Elise Circle for elders to knit, crochet, quilt, play bridge or cribbage, and participate in line dancing classes. We were also able to offer art, tai-chi, and exercise classes, but participants had to pay higher fees for these programs because of the Council's drastically reduced operating expense budget.

We were saddened at the passing of our long-time COA member, Elizabeth Verity. Mrs. Verity was a strong advocate for elderly residents and worked tirelessly on their behalf. We will truly miss her as we move forward with plans to build a senior center where all the Council on Aging's services and programs can be combined at one, centrally located, accessible facility. To assist in this effort, Easton Senior Center, Inc, a private non-profit organization worked to secure land for a facility. We hope they will have an agreement in place during in 2006 so they can begin fundraising and the project can move forward.

Easton's elder population is growing as are the requests for services. Therefore, the Council on Aging is hopeful that municipal funds can be restored to the budget so that needed services can resume to enhance quality of life and enable elders to live with dignity while maintaining health and independence.

Respectfully submitted:
Francis Spillane, Chairman
Nicolina Previti, Vice-chairman
Jan Hughs, Secretary
Marie Healey
Phyllis Kiessling
Carl Palm
Ethel Pomerleau
Dolores Kent, Director

2005 REPORT OF
THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Cemetery Commission can be reach by calling the Town Clerk 508-230-0531

The cemetery commission is responsible for ensuring that our town owned cemeteries are maintained for our future generations. We try with the limited funds that we receive to clean, straighten and reset or replace monuments where needed. We work with the Town Clerk in following up on the veterans buried in our Easton cemeteries.

We would like to thank the DPW crew for the excellent job of mowing and cleaning up the town owned cemeteries.

We had a motor vehicle accident at the Nehemiah Cemetery on Turnpike Street which resulted in replacing the gateway, marker and monuments that were damage.

We had a monument place for the Captain Elisha Harvey Cemetery.

We encourage our residents to take some time and make a visit to our historic cemeteries. Give us a call if you would like to know the location of these sites.

We would like to express our appreciation to our Town Officials, all Town Departments and the citizens of Easton for their support in helping us to maintain the care of our cemeteries.

Respectfully submitted,
John Melin ,Chairman
John Howard
Melanie Deware

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

As your representatives to the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), we are pleased to present this report on behalf of the Council for 2005.

The Old Colony Planning Council was established in 1967 by state statute and is authorized to prepare plans for the physical, social and economic development of the fifteen-member community region. OCPC is designated as: an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce for the coordination of regional economic development activities; an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to plan, manage and coordinate elder services in a twenty-three community service area; and, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to plan and program transportation and transit improvements for the region.

In addition to the above-designated responsibilities, the Council is concerned with a wide variety of area-wide and inter-municipal concerns as they pertain to the development of the Planning District. The Council also assists its member municipalities with technical planning, grant application preparation and current local and regional trends socioeconomic information.

This past year, the Council completed work on the Regional Disaster Mitigation Plan and local annexes for the OCPC Region; the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Four Year Elderly Needs Plan; the Route 28 Corridor Study (Avon/Randolph town line to Bridgewater/Middleborough town line); Vehicle and Speed Classification Studies throughout the region; a Commuter Rail Station and Park and Ride Lots Utilization Study; a Journey to Work Study; Updated Road Inventory files for our communities; the Transportation Element of the Hanson Master Plan; the West Bridgewater Economic Target Area (ETA); the OCPC 2005 DataBook; the Old Colony 2005 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS); a Stoughton 40b Housing Study; a BAT FY 2005 Ridership Analysis; numerous Intersection/Technical Studies, and the FFY 2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). During this period, the Council conducted traffic counts at approximately 175 locations throughout the region. The Council also initiated work on updating the Long Range Regional Transportation Plan; Route 3A Corridor Study in Kingston and Plymouth; Easton Circulation Study; MBTA Taskforce Participation in the New Bedford/Fall River Commuter Rail Growth Impact Study; BAT Service Analysis to Ikea; continue to administer the Hanson Community Septic Management Program; and established a Regional Wastewater Committee including the towns of Avon, East Bridgewater, Easton, West Bridgewater and the City of Brockton to develop a scope for a feasibility study looking at potential regional solutions. In addition, the Council completed the Stoughton Central Business District Study, the Brownfield Inventory, and the South Hanson Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Study with a grant from Vision 2020.

Each member community of the Council is represented by one delegate and one alternate member. The Council members establish policy, develop the work program, and employ and oversee the activities of the professional staff. The Council meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the OCPC offices located at 70 School Street, Brockton, MA. In 2005, the Council elected Robert Overholtzer of Hanson as President of OCPC; Jeanmarie Kent Joyce of Easton as Council Treasurer; and, Joseph P. Landolfi of Stoughton as Council Secretary. Pasquale Ciaramella serves as Executive Director of the Council.

The Council gratefully acknowledges the generous support and cooperation of its member communities and the participation and involvement of the many individuals who participate as members of committees. Special thanks are extended to Joint Transportation Committee Chair Noreen O'Toole; Comprehensive Economic Development Committee Chair Salvador A. Pina; and, the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee Mary Willis for their commitment, dedication and leadership during the year. The Council also recognizes the work of local boards and commissions and the government agencies, public and private institutions and individuals who assisted the Council in its efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanmarie Kent Joyce, Delegate
Stephen Donahue, Alternate
Matthew Striggles, Delegate At-Large

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2005
REPORT OF THE OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL AREA AGENCY ON AGING

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town of Easton. The Delegate and Alternate to the Old Colony Planning Council Area Agency on Aging (OCPC-AAA) Advisory Committee are pleased to present this report of the Area Agency on Aging activities for federal fiscal year 2005.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT:
The OCPC-AAA is responsible for planning, coordinating and funding elder services under the Older Americans Act in the 23 community region served by the program. The OCPC-AAA, in conjunction with input form the 23 community Advisory Committee, has focused its efforts on developing a network of services and programs to serve the unmet needs of elders from throughout the region. In fiscal year 2005, the OCPC-AAA provided grant funding to various service provider agencies for the following types of program and services:

*Mental Health Services
*Personal Care & Respite
*Transportation
*Services for Disabled Elders
*Legal Services
*Emergency Intervention Service
*Congregate and Home Delivered Meals
*Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
*Family Caregiver Support

The OCPC-AAA Advisory Committee Delegates and Alternates play a key role in the development and support of elder services and programs in the region. Committee members from each of the 23 communities assist the AAA in assessing elder needs in the region, recommending funding priorities, and recommending sub-grantee funding awards to the Planning Council. The support and cooperation of the Delegates and Alternates and their respective communities is acknowledged with gratitude by the Old Colony Planning Council Area Agency on Aging. The OCPC-AAA also wishes to extend sincere thanks to Committee Chairwoman Mary Willis of Pembroke and Vice-Chairwoman Jean-Marie Smith of Hanson for their leadership during the past fiscal year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dolores Kent, Delegate
Marie Healey, Alternate

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

The September 1998 Special Town Meeting voted to establish the Municipal Building Committee. The powers and duties of this committee are to serve as a building committee for all school and government building projects valued at $50,000 or more, including changes to existing buildings and all new buildings; to conduct inspections of all school and government buildings and to assist the DPW Director with the preparation of annual and 5-year capital improvement and maintenance plans.

2005 was a busy and productive year for the Municipal Building Committee. Attorney Robert E. Langway, Jr. continued his role as chairman as did Ralph Vatalaro as Vice Chairman and Dawn Boynton as Secretary. The committee maintained a regular meeting schedule on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings were held at 5:30 p.m. in the OAHS Guidance Office.

Throughout the year, the Committee devoted most of its time to the ongoing construction/renovation projects at the OAHS and EJHS. The year saw the substantial completion of Phase I of the High School Project with the new student classroom wing, guidance and career center and ancillary spaces ready for occupancy. The new gymnasium and auditorium are not far behind and are expected to open in the Spring of 2006, when Phase II of the 3-phase project gets underway.

After several unsuccessful rounds of public bidding the EJHS contract was finally awarded and Phase I broke ground in October, 2005. By year's end, the new classroom addition and cafeteria expansion was taking shape. Throughout the year in connection with these major construction projects, the Committee met and conferred with scores of Town Officials, various Boards and Committees and individual citizens. Frequent communication with the newly formed Massachusetts School Building Assistance Bureau has favored the construction projects and benefited the Town.

In 2006, the Committee will screen, interview and contract for a maintenance needs study in order to develop and integrate a maintenance plan for the HHR/FLO schools. Further, the committee will continue to work with the DPW Director on an ongoing basis to develop capital improvement and maintenance plans for all Town buildings.

In 2006 the Committee will continue to fulfill its mandate to oversee the school construction projects and will strive to ensure that the projects are run smoothly, safely, on-time and within budget. Regular meetings will continue to be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 5:30 pm in the OAHS Guidance Office and Agendas will be posted at Town Hall. Visitors are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Langway, Jr., Chairman
Dawn Boynton, Secretary
Marc Brockman
Ken Carlson
Wally Fulcher
Henry Narsasian
Ralph Vatalaro, Vice Chairman

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE WORLD WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Responsibility—the World War Memorial Committee administers the World War Memorial Scholarship fund in honor and in memory of the veterans of the United States Armed Forces. For further information, please contact the Town Administrator's Office and you will be referred to the member of the Committee most familiar with your concern.

The Committee held the annual meeting on April 20, 2005, in the guidance office of the Oliver Ames High School, to evaluate the applications for scholarships.

On the odd numbered years, an academic scholarship is awarded to a student attending an accredited college. The year 2005 scholarship was awarded to Allison Canty, who will be attending Bryant College. The award will be paid annually, subject to evidence of successful academic achievement. The 2003 scholarship awarded to Chris Ivanosky will be continued.

One vocational grant was awarded to a student pursuing a course of study that requires special books, tools, and other supplies. The recipient for the year 2005 was Rachel Welch, who will attend Johnson and Wales.

We offer our thanks to Bill Sullivan and Elayne Mahoney for their interest, advice, and assistance and to the Officers of the Town of Easton for administering the scholarship fund.

The Committee members have agreed that they would like to increase the amount of the academic award and request that donations be made in honor of our Veterans and for the benefit of the students of Oliver Ames High School.

Thank you to the members of the Committee and congratulations to the recipients.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Hurley, Chairman	Chairman, School Committee
John Melin	Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Robert McLaughlin	Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Permanent Members	Commander, American Legion

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE AMES FREE LIBRARY – EASTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

2004 99,873 items loaned

2005 103,975 items loaned

Circulation continues to grow. The library was closed more than seven days because of extra holidays and inclement weather. During this year the use of the library by non- Easton residents grew by 72% over the previous year for which the library receives and offset. This is a tribute to the excellent service provided by the staff and the outstanding collections.
Museum passes continue to be popular although the Museum of Fine Arts pass was discontinued because of an almost fifty percent increase in cost. The Museum of Science, Boston and Easton Children's Museum, Plimoth Plantation, Fuller Craft Museum and Roger William's Park Zoo passes are still available for booking. The Easton Lion's Club and the Friend's of the Ames Free Library make these passes possible.

The Addition project continues to move slowly forward. The lawsuit was settled favorably. As required by the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town, a Library Building Committee was appointed. Bid documents are being prepared at the direction of the Library Building Committee. The project will begin when all financing is in place and the Project Manager is appointed. This beginning is long awaited.

Repairs to a leaky roof and a recalcitrant furnace occupy more time and money than they should at the Main Library. Thus, new systems and construction will be welcome.
The Branch had two new furnaces installed by the landlord. Many users and staff had complained of smelling "gas" so this was a necessity. A new outside book drop was also delivered to the branch.

Copy machines at both locations have been replaced. Both seem to be working. These are heavily used by residents particularly since there are few units around the town for public use.

SAILS installed a major upgrade during the year. The system now works, but there was too much down time. Since more upgrades are planned, a PR Committee has been formed to get needed information out to the public about what the problem is and when normal service can be expected.
A new service called "Overdrive" was added to the system this year. Easton residents can download audio books on their MP3 players for listening at their leisure. At this time, 9,000 titles are available. These titles can be accessed from home computers using an Easton Library card.

The library participated in the seventy-fifth anniversary celebration of Frothingham Park on September 10th. There were several readers who read stories throughout the day. Blankets were spread on the ground for children to sit upon.

Very interested groups of children saw programs as diverse as, "Balinese Arts" and "Reptiles". These programs are made possible by the Stonehill College Enrichment Fund and are part of year round children's events.
The number of children completing the summer reading program was 225.
Regular story hours were also held. Call the Library to get dates and locations.

School children continue to dominate reference services. Cooperation with the School Department provides needed information about curriculum so the library can be prepared to meet assignment needs.

All The News continues to be published by the library four times a year. In the fall issue a coupon for a "free library" card was printed and many residents came in to get cards or to renew old ones. All library cards are always free, but this small ad really got the public's attention.

"Book Lovers of Easton" is broadcast on Channel 9 with Madeline Holt, Assistant Director, doing the interviewing. The half hour program is broadcast twice a week.

Two book clubs continue to meet once a month. The first Monday evening at the Main Library and the first Wednesday afternoon at the Branch. The same book is read at each monthly meeting. All residents are welcome.

This library is fortunate to have a stable, talented staff, particularly adept at assisting the public and using the technical resources available at the library. They are also great teachers and the public feels comfortable asking them for assistance.

The physical plant creates difficulties for both staff and patrons but we hope this will be soon addressed as was mentioned earlier.

The Friends of the Library continue their support through the annual soup sale at the Holiday Festival. The income from this event provides passes to museums for the community.

Again, Karen Hays conducted two very successful book sales. One in the spring and the other at the Holiday Festival. Her work is greatly appreciated not only by the library but also by the whole community.

Special thanks go to the Board of Directors for their tireless work to make the Ames Free Library a really good library. Town Departments also have been very helpful, the DPW, the Police, and Fire Departments have responded when called. Thank you to everyone for their assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annalee Bundy
Executive Director

Members of the Board of Directors:
Donna Richman, President
Gerard Marsan, Vice President
Hazel Varella, Secretary
William M. Ames
Kathleen Boyle
Alice McCarthy
Kevin Paicos
Gloria Stafford
James S. Thomas
Joseph Murphy, Ex Officio, Treasurer
Edwin C. White, Building & Endowment Director
Elizabeth M. Ames, Building & Endowment Director

2005 REPORT OF
THE AMES TRUST FUND

Following is a summary of the Ames Trust Funds held for the benefit of the schools and highways of the Town of Easton as of December 31, 2005, including estimates of the income to be distributed to the Town during 2006. Fortunately, the amount distributed to the Town by all three funds during 2005 was more than the amounts distributed in 2004 and also in excess of the amounts estimated to be available for 2005. Once again dividend income from common stocks held in the portfolios has held up quite well since corporate earnings have been good over the past year. Most of the income generated by these funds comes from fixed income securities, primarily U. S. Government bonds and notes. The Federal Reserve Board has been steadily increasing short term interest rates for more than a year in order to combat inflation, and this has allowed portfolio managers to re-invest the principal value of matured bonds and notes at higher yields. The Trustees have worked with their investment advisors to ensure that, in this environment, increased income has been available for distribution while the quality of the portfolios has remained high and the average maturity of the fixed income holdings has been managed so as to take advantage of the increase in yields.

	Book Value	12/31/05 Market Value	2005 Income Paid to Town	2006 Estimate Income to Town
Highways Fund	$1,189,778.25	$5,858,331.84	$161,931.33	$150,000.00
Highways Perm. Fund	$191,997.00	$247,718.00	$4,625.53	$7,200.00
Schools Fund	$3,638,226.00	$4,970,272.00	$114,243.12	$100,000.00

Very truly yours,

James S. Thomas, Trustee

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
OAKES AMES MEMORIAL HALL ASSOCIATION

Income			
	Donors		5,000.00
	Rental Income	11,400.00	
	Investment account		5,000.00
	Miscellaneous		
	Total income		**$21,400.00**
Expenses			
Fees: Rental Agent and Custodian		5,1900.00	
Insurance- workmen's comp			275.00
	Salary sub-total	$5,465.00	
Utilities:			
	Heating Oil		6,438.12
	Furnace Service	98.00	
	Massachusetts Electric	2,213.22	
	Boston Gas		735.25
	Town of Easton- Water (with sprinkler fees)	983.19	
	Verizon- 238-9995,9081	422.82	
	Sub-total utilities	$10,890.60	
Fire Safety			
	Inspect fire extinguishers	51.50	
	Sprinkler Inspections (3)	1,500.00	
	Extinguisher service	163.25	
	Sub-total fire safety	$1,714.75	
Plumbing			
	Sub-total plumbing	$150.00	
Other Expenses			
	Plumbing- frozen pipes		961.00
	Fire Alarm- frozen pipes repair/test	1,153.00	
	Rug cleaning (1)	650.00	
	Miscellaneous		750.00
	Sub-total other	$5,968.00	
	Total Expense		**$22,323.60**
Net Income (deficit)			**($ 923.60)**

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick L. Ames,
Presesident

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Town of Easton's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is comprised of four citizens "at large" and five members selected from existing Town boards and committees. The "citizen-members" include Michael Boyle, Capital Improvements Planning Committee member and former FinCom member; Patricia Hunt, former selectwoman and former FinCom member; James D. Mullen, Jr., Water Advisory Commission member, former selectman and former FinCom member; and Avery Lee Williams, townsperson active in many community organizations. John Grant serves on the committee for the Easton Conservation Commission; Edmund Hands serves for the Easton Historical Commission; Christopher Kone, chairman of the Easton Planning and Zoning Board, serves for the PZB; Michael Malloy serves for the Easton Housing Authority; and Frank Spillane serves for the Recreation Commission.

As mentioned in prior reports, the Community Preservation Act was enacted by the legislature and signed by the Governor in September of 2000, to provide a dedicated funding stream for the preservation of open space (including recreation), historic resources and community housing. At that time, statistics were showing that open space in Massachusetts was being developed at a rate of 44 acres per day and our legislators realized that funding would be needed to preserve our fast-disappearing open spaces, which spaces serve, or could serve, many important community purposes: water supply protection; scenic and historic vistas; farming; recreation fields; historic resources; affordable housing. CPA funding is provided through a local real estate tax surcharge and a statewide registry of deeds surcharge. The state funds are distributed to participating communities as matching funds in October of each year. The state match can be as much as 100% of the total amount raised by a community in the preceding fiscal year, depending upon how much revenue is collected by the state and how many communities are participating. Easton's surcharge has two exemptions: the first $100,000 of value of each residence and an exemption for property owned by lower income persons.

We are pleased to report that in October of 2005, the Town received $625,268 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in state Community Preservation matching funds. This is the fourth state match since the inception of the CPA law and the fourth 100% match. Because Easton voters had the foresight to adopt CPA at its outset, Easton has maximized its receipt of state matching funds. This latest award brings the total of state matching funds awarded to Easton to $2,091,259. So far, for every dollar that we have raised, we've received a dollar from the state – a 100% return on our investment. We also note that at the time of our last report to you, there were 75 CPA communities. There are now 103. As time goes by, more and more communities are seeing the light and are adopting the CPA and becoming eligible for the state matching funds.

FY 2002 is the first year that Easton collected CPA funds. Through December 31, 2005, Easton has collected $4,627,206, with $2,091,259 of those funds from state matching funds. 10% of that total must be reserved for or spent on each of the three community preservation purposes: historic preservation; community housing; and open space preservation. The balance of CPA funds are not reserved for any particular community preservation purpose, but must be spent for community preservation projects. The money cannot be spent on ordinary Town expenditures, for example – maintenance. CPA funds can only be spent as the CPA law states and upon a favorable recommendation of the CPA Committee and Town Meeting approval.

We are also pleased to report that the Town of Easton completed its first land acquisition with CPA funds this year. The 40-acre parcel that the Town acquired in December is located on Dean Street, is entirely within the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), is adjacent to Wheaton Farm and is surrounded on three sides by town-owned land. This parcel is valuable not only for its diverse wildlife and its pond, streams, wetlands, vernal pools, forest and meadows; but it also serves as a critical link in the "green" corridor that runs from the Hockomock Swamp to Wheaton Farm and on to Borderland State Park. The loss of this parcel to development would have fragmented the larger system comprised of

these important areas. It is fitting that Easton's first land acquisition with CPA funds should enhance the diversity of the Wheaton Farm conservation area. Wheaton Farm represents one of the Town's earliest efforts to conserve open space.

At the Special Town Meeting held on September 26, the voters approved, by an overwhelming majority, the bonding of $1.75 million to cover the anticipated costs of this acquisition. All funding comes from the CPA budget; no funds come from the Town's operating budget. At the time of the Town Meeting, the exact purchase price of the property was not established because it was dependent upon the number of house lots that could be developed on the site. We are pleased to report that the definitive sales price was determined to be $1.375 million and, in December of 2005, the Town closed on the purchase and received a deed from the landowner. The Committee appreciates the efforts of the Town of Easton staff who worked especially hard to make this acquisition possible, including Town Administrator Martha White, Town Accountant Wendy Nightingale, Town Planner Marc Rousseau, Conservation Commission Agent Bob Dunne, and DPW's Maurice Goulet. (We hope we have not overlooked anyone.) We also want to thank the Selectmen, Conservation Commission and the Finance Committee for their support of this project. Most importantly, we thank the voters of Easton for supporting this important acquisition.

The Town's approved CPA projects and ideas for future projects are as follows.

Community Housing: The Town Meeting has, thus far, approved CPA funds for the May Institute Project for developmentally disabled young adults and funds for an Affordable Housing Plan. We are hoping that the Affordable Housing Plan will help to provide a blueprint for CPA housing projects as the Open Space and Recreation Plan does for those projects. We have met several times with the Town's Housing Partnership and its consultant to discuss the Town's affordable housing needs and what the Town can do to address those needs.

Historic Resources: Town Meeting has provided $100,000 for the restoration of the Olmstead Rockery, which funds were then leveraged to obtain an additional $42,500 in state matching funds from the Mass. Historic Commission. We look forward to the Historic Commission's Historic Resources Survey and their future projects for CPA funding.

Open Space and Recreation: As previously explained to Town Meeting and in prior reports, the Committee anticipates the major expenditures from CPA funds to be in land acquisition for Open Space and Recreation. This is because we believe that with open space acquisitions, there are no second chances. When a priority parcel comes up for sale, if it is not acquired, it will be developed and the opportunity for preservation or other public use will be lost. The Committee believes that if we follow the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Town's long-term open space and recreation needs will be met with regard to acquiring the land needed for protection of watershed areas; for preservation of the Town's major scenic vistas and historic landscapes; to connect important wildlife habitat and green spaces; and to accommodate the community's current and future "build-out" passive and active recreation and recreational field needs. The Committee will continue to monitor the status of the priority parcels and, when the time comes, will bring such acquisitions to the Townspeople for review and decision. CPA funding is the only way that these goals can be accomplished.

Because the parcel we are considering to satisfy long-term recreational field needs is not yet available for acquisition, the Committee has been working with the Recreation Commission on an interim plan to create new playing fields. Specifically, we have been looking at the Foundry St. parcel that the Town acquired several years ago for playing field development. We are reviewing the feasibility of that project at this time. The Committee recently approved $25,000 in CPA funding for the Recreation Commission to be used for engineering for additional playing fields at the Foundry St. site. These funds will come from the CPA administrative budget.

As time goes by, more and more land is developed and there is less land available for Town and public use. Even when it is available, it may not be suitable for a particular use, such as a playing field. We have come

to what may be an obvious conclusion regarding open space and recreation: that it would be in the best interest of the Town and its officials to follow a ***"no net loss" policy.*** In other words, the Town should not exacerbate the need for open space or fields by relinquishing the lands and fields that we already have. Existing open spaces and playing fields are valuable resources that belong to the Townspeople.

There are two websites that contain information on the Community Preservation Act. One is the website of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs at www.state.ma.us/envir and the other is at www.communitypreservation.org. Easton's CPA Committee also lists information on the Town's website at www.easton.ma.us. The Committee meets on a monthly basis at the Town Offices and more often, as needed. Our meetings are open to the public. We hold one public hearing each year and report to the Town Meeting on an annual basis. All CPA projects must be approved by Town Meeting. We can be reached through the Easton Town Offices, 136 Elm St. Easton, MA 02356.

In closing, we want to thank Town Administrator Martha White and the Town Accountant Wendy Nightingale for their invaluable assistance and Mike Deltano for assisting us with our webpage. We also want to thank the Selectmen for their continued support of CPA and the Committee's efforts. Primarily, appreciation is due to the people of Easton for their foresight in passing the Community Preservation Act and for their continued support of its goals.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Hunt, Chair, for the Committee
James D. Mullen, Jr., Vice Chair
John Grant, Clerk
Michael Boyle
Edmund Hands
Christopher Kone
Michael Malloy
Frank Spillane
Avery Lee Williams

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE BRISTOL COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL

On June 30, 2005 the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project completed forty-six years of service to the cities and towns of Bristol County.

The mosquito control project works year-round in its efforts to reduce mosquito breeding sites and adult mosquito populations. The Project uses several different measures of control in its never-ending fight against mosquitoes.

Spring and Summer Larviciding - To reduce the emergence of adult mosquitoes in areas where mosquito larvae are present.

Catch Basin Treatment - To stop mosquito emergence from rain-filled catch basins and storm drains.

Mosquito Surveillance Program - To monitor mosquito populations as to their type and number - a program necessary in encephalitis surveillance. Light trapping of mosquitoes is also useful to determine what areas have nuisance populations of mosquitoes and should be sprayed.

Water Management - A year round endeavor to clean and construct mosquito drainage ditches in lowland swamps to reduce breeding sites for mosquito larvae.

Public Outreach: - Providing important information to the residents of the county with respect to personal protection against mosquito bites, mosquito breeding prevention on one's property and mosquito data.

It is the policy of the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project to use pesticides that are environmentally safe so that the safety of the people and environment are not jeopardized. We use as many of the biological insecticides as are practical with the environmental conditions present in the New England area.

All of our spray equipment is calibrated periodically in order to insure that dosage rates remain at safe levels but are adequate to reduce mosquito populations. The operators of our spray equipment are state licensed pesticide applicators that are required to attend classes on pesticide safety on a yearly basis.

During the time period January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005 the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project:

- Sprayed over 15,739 acres
- Treated 45.7 acres in 100 locations with BTI for mosquito larvae
- Received 869 requests for spraying
- Cleared and reclaimed 2,050 feet of brush
- Treated 186 catch basins

As of December 31, 2005, there was one bird found with West Nile Virus. There were also three pools of West Nile Virus and one pool of Eastern Equine Encephalitis isolated from mosquitoes in the Town of Easton.

I would like to thank the town officials and the people of Easton for their continued support and cooperation and look forward to serving them in the coming year. Should anyone have a question as to what might be done to relieve a mosquito problem in their area, whether it is water management work, treatment of a breeding site, or just having an area checked, please feel free to call our office.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Andrews, Superintendent

Bristol County Mosquito Control Commissioners:

Gordon W. Wolfe, Chairman
Arthur F. Tobin
Gregory D. Dorrance
Steven E. Antunes-Kenyon
Christine A. Fagan

2005 REPORT OF
THE BORDERLAND STATE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Borderland State Park Advisory Council (BSPAC) held two meetings in 2005, February and November. An extensive number of letters and memos were sent to State Senators, State Representatives, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and other administrators within the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) by the BSPAC concerning matters at Borderland. These matters were related to staffing, maintenance and funding the park. Through the letter writing efforts of the Council, $200,000 in funding was made available in July for repair of leaks in the Mansion roof, re-glazing and or replacement of windows. Water damage occurred within the Mansion from heavy rain in October because of the still faulty roof. A DCR scoping meeting in late October was the result of the action taken by the Council to secure the maintenance funding. This resulted in the DCR recognizing roof, masonry, window, HVAC, ice dam and heating problems in the Mansion. Action plans were made for the various items and they are to be undertaken in 2006.

DCR Commissioner Stephen Burrington appointed Ms. Ellenor Yahrmarkt as Park Supervisory in October; and appointment that the Council had supported since the position became vacant in 2003. Staffing at Borderland has been reduced again from four to three full time employees to cover 77 hours of park operations each week as well as collecting parking fees, general maintenance, administration, safety patrolling, opening and closing a 1700+ acre park. As a result of the cuts by the DCR, the original staff at Borderland has been reduced from seven to only three. As a result the operation and maintenance of the Park is being adversely effected.

The Park collected $83,000.00 in parking fees and passes for the year ending July 2005, all of which went into the **Stage General Fund, not Borderland Park**. Attendance continues to increase as more and more people discover this peaceful oasis in suburbia.

The Council is concerned about the condition of the Smith and the Wilbur farm houses. These buildings are registered as historical and should be maintained.

The Park budget for 2005 was level funded again even though heating and fuel costs increased. Friends of Borderland helped the park staff to purchase supplies when money was not available from the DCR.

The Council discussed the proposed development of Rattlesnake Hill in Sharon and supports its development in an environmentally sensitively way and as an addition to Borderland State Park.

The Council and the staff at Borderland appreciate your continued support of Park activities. If you have any questions regarding Park policy please feel free to contact Borderland Park at (508) 238-6656 or Council members.

Respectfully submitted,

William O. Hocking, Jr., Chairman (Foxboro)
Paul Berry, Easton Historical Society
John J. Kent, Easton Representative
John Ventresco, Friends of Borderland

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE EASTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

The purpose of the Easton Cultural Council (ECC), a local cultural council through the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is to support public programs that promote education, diversity, excellence in and access to the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. Its mission is to directly affect the residents of Easton, to achieve the greatest community benefit, and to cultivate the arts through participation and appreciation. The ECC endeavors to make cultural opportunities accessible to all segments of the population, including but not limited to, all racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, veterans and women.

This past granting cycle we had six active members: Marion Wingfield, Chair, Michael Mahany, Treasurer, Wanda Azevedo, Secretary, Nancy Arns, Member, Anne-Marie Burke, Member, and Katherine Minsky, Member.

Beginning in September of 2005, we received 34 applications for a request total of $17,080. After a series of meetings and deliberations, including interviews with several of the applicants, we voted in January, 2006, to approve 17 of those applications, granting a total of $5, 175, to be dispersed in 2006.

We have a total of $4700 to award applicants in the 2006-2007 cycle. The Council is currently seeking additional members, and can contact Marion Wingfield, Chair, at Wingfield2002@comcast.net

Respectfully submitted by Marion Wingfield

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SERVICES GROUP

The Southeastern Regional Services Group (SERSG) has enjoyed another productive year providing valuable services to its member communities which now number 18 with the Town of Rockland joining the group in 2005.

One of the primary functions of SERSG continues to be conducting cooperative procurements to secure competitive prices and save time and money for member communities. In spring 2005, the regional administrator was responsible for procuring Office Supplies for all communities, DPW Supplies for 16 communities, and Paper for 14 member communities. In the fall of 2005 the annual DPW Services IFB utilized by 15 members was circulated, as were RFPs for Employee Assistance Program Services for three communities and Drug and Alcohol Testing Services which will be utilized by 12 communities.

Notably, member participation in the biennial Office Supplies procurement was 100 percent, and communities ultimately signed two-year contracts with New England Office Supply for a discount of 73.6% off contracted items in the USS Catalog. For Fiscal Year 2005, the SERSG Office Supplies procurement saved participating communities almost $800,000 off listed USS catalog prices. Total contract spending on office supplies for Fiscal Year 2005 was approximately $425,000.

A statewide survey of prices for DPW Supplies and Services continues to demonstrate that SERSG procurements save communities significant amounts of money. An estimated total of $230,000 was saved (over statewide survey averages) for communities who procured the services of crack sealing (14 communities) and cold planing (11 communities) for Calendar Year 2005. More than $125,000 in total savings came from nine categories of DPW Supplies including calcium chloride, sand, hot mix, cold patch and various kinds of stone and gravel.

Lara Thomas, the SERSG Regional Administrator, participated in two Inspector General's Office trainings in 2005 to move toward certification as a Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official (MCPPO). She expects to take the final class to be designated an MCPPO in 2006.

SERSG also sponsored two membership-wide trainings in 2005. In June, the State Ethics Commission presented an evening seminar on Massachusetts Ethics Law at Brockton High School. The elected officials who attended found the seminar very informative with a great deal of practical information presented on how to interpret the law and assure ethical practices within municipal government. The Commissioner of the Alcoholic Beverages Commission also led a well-attended training at Massasoit Community College in September. The training focused on new ABCC regulations and processes and the impact of the changes on municipalities. Nearly 100 percent of SERSG communities were represented at the meeting.

The Pipeline Project, initiated as a response to Aquaria Water's plans to build a desalinization plant in Dighton with a 16 mile long 20-inch diameter pipeline connecting the plant to the City of Brockton, continued as a special project in 2005 for the Towns of West Bridgewater, Easton and Raynham and the City of Taunton. Activity this year centered on moving the design of the pipeline toward final construction plans with the assistance of Dufresne-Henry engineer Garry McCarthy who was hired by SERSG to review the plans. Major impacts in the City of Taunton were alleviated by Aquaria rerouting a major part of the pipeline onto a portion of the MBTA right of way in Taunton. In addition to plan review, mitigation discussions took place in all communities with Raynham and West Bridgewater's mitigation agreements nearing final approval. An RFP for the development of a community relations plan was also developed and circulated during the summer with the submission by Regina Villa Associates of Boston selected as most advantageous. At the end of the year, negotiations toward a contract with Regina Villa were progressing smoothly. Aquaria is hopeful that construction may be able to begin in spring 2006.

Finally, monthly meetings of both the SERSG Board of Directors and the SERSG Highway Superintendents continued to allow productive discussion of issues and sharing of solutions and best practices for carrying out the myriad functions of municipal government.

Lara Ramey Thomas
SERSG Regional Administrator

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
508-230-0530
Fax 508-230-0539
Website: www.easton.ma.us

Town Clerk Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Assistant Town Clerk Marie A. Graca
Principal Clerk Maureen A. Call
Town Clerk Emeritus Esther C. Anderson
E-Mail: jlinehan@easton.ma.us

There were three Town Meetings in 2005 – the Annual Town Meeting on May 16 was postponed to June 6 due to lack of quorum; and two Special Town Meetings one on April 7and another on September 26. There were two local elections this year – a Special Debt Exclusion election on January 11, 2005 and the Annual Town Election on April 26, 2005. Please refer to the individual reports for detailed information.

We assisted 528 travelers with Passport Services during calendar 2005, bringing in $15,840 additional revenue for the Town. This was an increase of 108 travelers and $3,240 in revenue over 2004.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE MISSION STATEMENT

The Office of the Town Clerk serves as the central information center of the Town by collecting, maintaining and disseminating public records; being a direct link between the residents of Easton and their local government. The office strives to serve the public and all Town Departments by being versatile, alert, accurate and patient. The goal of the Office of the Town Clerk is to preserve, protect and uphold all Town records in the custody of the Town Clerk, including Vital Records, and to conduct fair and impartial Elections for Registered Voters, all in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, rendering equal service to all in order to merit public confidence.

* * * * *

The Town Clerk serves you as…

CHIEF ELECTION OFFICIAL

- Oversees polling places, election officers, and the general conduct of all elections.
- Directs preparation of ballots, polling places, voting equipment, voting lists, administers campaign finance laws, certifies nomination papers and initiative petitions and serves on the local Board of Registrars.
- Supervises voter registration and absentee balloting, and prepares, records and reports official election results to the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth.
- Conducts the annual town census, prepares the street list of residents and school list, and furnishes the jury list to the Office of the Jury Commissioner.

RECORDING OFFICER

- Records and certifies all official actions of the Town, including town meeting legislation and appropriations, Planning and Zoning Board and Board of Appeals Decisions, signs all notes for borrowing, and keeps the Town Seal.
- Records state tax liens.

REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

- Registers all vital events occurring within the community and those events occurring elsewhere to local residents.
- Records and preserves original birth, marriage, and death records providing the basis for the Commonwealth's central vital registration system.

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICER

- Administers the oath of office to all elected and appointed members of local committees and boards and ensures that all elected and appointed officials are informed of the State's Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest Laws. Posts meetings of all government bodies.
- Provides access to public records in compliance with State Public Records Law and corresponding regulations.
- Provides certified copies of vital records and conducts or assists with genealogical research for members of the public, and is responsible for maintenance, disposition and preservation of municipal archival records and materials.
- Maintains records of adopted municipal codes, local bylaws, oaths of office, resignations and appointments, petitions, publications, budgets, meeting minutes, and financial statements.
- Submits bylaws and zoning ordinances to Attorney General for approval.

LICENSING OFFICER

- Issues state licenses and permits: including marriage licenses, hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, and permits for raffles and bazaars. Issues county or local licenses, permits, and certificates as mandated by statute or bylaw, which may include business certificates, animal licenses, and fuel storage permits.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

- Responds to inquires from the general public, frequently serving as facilitator with departments, providing knowledge and assistance in a fair and impartial manner to all.
- Often considered the core of local government, the Town Clerk's Office serves as the central information point for local residents and citizens at large.

PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE AGENT

- Assists travelers with executing passport applications.

If we can be of assistance to you in any way, please contact us in person, by phone, or by e-mail.

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Various meetings of the Board of Registrars were held for registration of voters for Town Meetings and all elections.

PCT	DEMOCRAT	GREEN PARTY USA	GREEN-RAINBOW	INTER. 3RD PARTY	LIBERTARIAN	REFORM	REPUBLICAN	SOCIALIST	UNENROLLED	TOTAL
At the close of Registration December 22, 2004 for the Special Electon on January 11, 2005										
1	463	0	2	1	7	1	355	0	878	1707
2	715	0	5	3	11	0	530	1	1442	2707
3	686	1	4	2	17	0	466	0	1359	2535
4	646	0	4	5	18	1	449	0	1302	2425
5	751	0	4	3	7	1	421	0	1435	2622
6	619	0	1	4	16	0	441	0	1318	2399
Total	3880	1	20	18	76	3	2662	1	7734	14395
At the close of Registration April 6, 2005 for Annual Town Election on April 26, 2005										
1	463	0	2	1	8	1	357	0	888	1720
2	725	0	5	3	10	0	531	1	1441	2716
3	695	1	2	1	18	0	463	0	1357	2537
4	655	0	4	4	19	1	451	0	1313	2447
5	760	0	4	3	7	1	426	0	1451	2652
6	626	0	2	5	16	0	450	0	1336	2435
Total	3924	1	19	17	78	3	2678	1	7786	14507
At the close of Registration April 26, 2005 for Annual Town Meeting on May 16, 2005										
1	446	0	2	1	8	1	345	0	870	1673
2	701	0	4	2	9	0	507	1	1398	2622
3	670	1	2	1	17	0	442	0	1311	2444
4	644	0	4	4	17	1	441	0	1282	2393
5	743	0	4	3	8	1	406	0	1426	2591
6	611	0	2	5	16	0	435	0	1305	2374
Total	3815	1	18	16	75	3	2576	1	7592	14097
At the close of Registration September 16, 2005 for Special Town Meeting on September 26, 2005										
1	452	0	2	1	8	1	349	0	883	1696
2	704	0	4	2	9	0	514	1	1419	2653
3	688	1	2	1	17	0	450	0	1335	2494
4	647	0	4	4	18	1	448	0	1301	2423
5	754	0	4	3	8	1	416	0	1446	2632
6	625	0	2	5	16	0	445	0	1336	2429
Total	3870	1	18	16	76	3	2622	1	7720	14327

Respectfully submitted,
Jean M. Kent, Chairman
Jean H. Cote
Kent M. Keith
Janet Andrus Linehan, Clerk
BOARD OF REGISTRARS

2005 VITAL STATISTICS RECORDED IN EASTON
RECEIVED THRU JANUARY 23, 2006

BIRTHS

Males	98	184	Single Births
Females	92	6	Sets of Twins
	190	**190**	

MARRIAGES

Marriages in Easton	**46**	**Residence of Party A & Party B**	
Marriages Out of Easton	**48**	Both Residents of Easton	55
	94	One Easton, One Other MA Town	16
		One Easton, One Out of State	3
		Both Out of State	4
		Both Out of Town	15
		One Out of Town, One Out of State	1
			94

DEATHS

Residents who died in Easton	59	**BY AGE & GENDER**			
Residents who died out of Easton	83	Ages	Female	Male	
Non-Residents who died in Easton	20	0-20	0	1	1
Total	**162**	21-49	3	6	9
		50-59	5	4	9
TYPE OF FACILITY:		60-69	12	13	25
Hospital	56	70-79	12	22	34
Nursing Home	47	80-89	31	27	58
Residence	38	90-99	20	9	29
Other	1	100+(104)	4	0	4
Total	**142**	**Total**	**87**	**82**	**169**

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES ISSUED JANUARY 2005 TO DECEMBER 2005

	License Class Issued		Fees	Total
F1	RESIDENT FISHING	95	$ 22.50	$ 2,137.50
F2	RESIDENT FISHING MINOR	9	$ 6.50	$ 58.50
F3	FISHING LICENCE 65-69	4	$ 10.75	$ 43.00
T3	RESIDENT TRAPPING, AGE 65-69	1	$ 15.25	$ 15.25
	Total Fishing Licenses	**109**	**$ 55.00**	**$ 2,254.25**
H1	RESIDENT CITIZEN HUNTING	26	$ 22.50	$ 585.00
H8	RESIDENT CITIZEN MINOR HUNTING	1	$ 6.50	$ 6.50
S1	RESIDENT SPORTING	38	$ 40.00	$ 1,520.00
S2	RESIDENT SPORTING 65-69	2	$ 20.00	$ 40.00
	Total Sporting Licenses	**67**	**$ 89.00**	**$ 2,151.50**
M1	ARCHERY STAMP	36	$ 5.10	$ 183.60
M2	WATERFOWL STAMP	20	$ 5.00	$ 100.00
M3	PRIMITIVE FIREARMS STAMP	32	$ 5.10	$ 163.20
W1	WILD.CONSER. STAMP (Resident)	174	$ 5.00	$ 870.00
	Total Stamps Issued	**262**	**$ 20.20**	**$ 1,316.80**
	Total Licenses Issued	**176**	**$ 144.00**	**$ 4,405.75**
	Total Licenses and Stamps Issued	**438**	**$ 164.20**	**$ 5,722.55**
	Sporting Llicense Fees	14	$ 1.00	$ 14.00
	Sporting License Fees	112	$ 0.50	$ 56.00
	Stamp Fees	26	$ 0.10	$ 2.60
	Stamp Fees	52	$ 0.25	$ 13.00
	Total Fees	**204**		**$ 85.60**
	License Fees Deducted	112	$ 0.50	$ 56.00
	Waterfowl Stamp Fees Deducted	16	$ 0.25	$ 4.00
	Archery Stamp Fees Deducted	36	$ 0.10	$ 3.60
	Primitive Fire Arms Fees	38	$ 0.10	$ 3.80
	Total Fees Deducted License & Stamps	**202**		**$ 67.40**
	Additional Fees Paid to Town of Easton			$ 78.80
	Total Fees Deducted			**$ 146.20**
	Total PAID TO Fisheries & Wildlife			$ 5,569.55

Respectfully submited
Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

DOG LICENSES ISSUED JANUARY 2005 TO JUNE 2005

ISSUED JANUARY 1, 2005 TO JULY 2005 INCLUSIVE

	License	Fee	Total
	2004 (JAN TO APRIL)		
59	Neutered	$10.00	$590.00
5	Males	$15.00	$75.00
99	Spayed Females	$10.00	$990.00
6	Females	$15.00	$90.00
0	Kennel License	$25.00	$0.00
0	Kennel License	$50.00	$0.00
0	Transfer Licenses	$3.00	$0.00
	Total Licenses		$1,745.00
50	Late Fees & violations	$ 25.00	$1,250.00
	Collected		**$2,995.00**
	2005 (JAN TO APRIL 2005)		
414	Neutered Males	$ 10.00	$4,140.00
77	Males	$ 15.00	$1,155.00
417	Spayed Females	$ 10.00	$4,170.00
32	Females	$ 15.00	$480.00
	Kennel	$ 25.00	$0.00
	Kennel	$ 50.00	$0.00
	Transfer Licenses	$ 3.00	$ -
	Total Licenses		$9,945.00
26	Late Fees	$25.00	$650.00
	Collected		$10,595.00
	Total Licenses Collected		$11,690.00
25	Total Late Fees	$ 25.00	$625.00
	Total Funds Collected		**$12,315.00**
	Total Paid to Treasurer		**$27,125.00**

	License	Fee	Total
	2004 (MAY-JUNE 2005)		
9	Neutered	$10.00	$90.00
1	Males	$15.00	$15.00
12	Spayed Females	$10.00	$120.00
2	Females	$15.00	$30.00
	Kennel License	$25.00	$0.00
1	Kennel License	$50.00	$50.00
	Transfer Licenses	$3.00	$0.00
	Total Licenses		$305.00
19	Late Fees & violations	$ 25.00	$475.00
	Collected		**$780.00**
	2005 (MAY-JUNE 2005)		
332	Neutered Males	$ 10.00	$3,320.00
78	Males	$ 15.00	$1,170.00
358	Spayed Females	$ 10.00	$3,580.00
39	Females	$ 15.00	$585.00
	Kennel	$ 25.00	$0.00
	Kennel	$ 50.00	$0.00
	Transfer Licenses	$ 3.00	$0.00
	Total Licenses		$8,655.00
5	Late Fees	$25.00	$125.00
	Collected		$8,780.00
	Total Licenses Collected		$8,960.00
	Total Late Fees	$ 25.00	$0.00
	Total Funds Collected		**$8,960.00**

	License	Fee	Total
	2004 (JULY 2005)		
2	Neutered	$10.00	$20.00
	Males	$15.00	$0.00
1	Spayed Females	$10.00	$10.00
	Females	$15.00	$0.00
	Kennel License	$25.00	$0.00
	Kennel License	$50.00	$0.00
	Transfer Licenses	$3.00	$0.00
	Total Licenses		$30.00
	Late Fees & violations	$ 25.00	$0.00
	Collected		**$30.00**
	2005 (July)		
81	Neutered Males	$ 10.00	$810.00
17	Males	$ 15.00	$255.00
80	Spayed Females	$ 10.00	$800.00
10	Females	$ 15.00	$150.00
	Kennel	$ 25.00	$0.00
	Kennel	$ 50.00	$0.00
	Transfer Licenses	$ 3.00	$0.00
	Total Licenses		$2,015.00
	Late Fees	$25.00	$125.00
	Collected		$2,140.00
	Total Licenses Collected		$2,045.00
	Total Late Fees	$ 25.00	$0.00
	Total Funds Collected		**$2,045.00**

Respectfully submitted

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

Town Clerks fees issued January 2005 to December 2005

	Fees		Total
Birth	$ 10.00	517	$ 5,170.00
Death	$ 10.00	525	$ 5,250.00
Marriage	$ 10.00	246	$ 2,240.00
Birth	$ 8.00	10	$ 80.00
Marriage	$ 8.00	1	$ 8.00
Misc Vitals	$ 5.00		$ 164.36
Correction Death	$ 20.00		$ 40.00
Marriage Intentions	$ 25.00	84	$ 2,100.00
Voter ID	$ 8.00	2	$ 16.00
Business Cert	$ 25.00	234	$ 5,850.00
BusinessCert/Change	$ 15.00	2	$ 30.00
Business Disc	$ 20.00	29	$ 580.00
Charter	$ 1.75	3	$ 5.25
Gas Permits			$ 3,809.00
General Buy-Laws	$ 5.00		$ 30.00
Street Listing	$ 10.00	81	$ 810.00
Computer copies	$ 0.50	86	$ 54.40
Copies, Inc.	$ 0.20	551	$ 665.05
Copy Disks	$ 25.00	8	$ 200.00
Raffle Permit	$ 15.00	8	$ 120.00
UCC FILING	$ 10.00	1	$ 10.00
Duplicate Dog tags	$ 3.00	4	$ 17.00
Declation Hmestead	$ 15.00	1	$ 15.00
Fish holders	$ 0.25	14	$ 4.00
Pole Location (open)			$ 50.00
Misc		1	$ 1.00
Passport	$ 30.00	297	$ 8,910.00
Total Town Clerk Fees	$ 279.70		**$ 36,229.06**
Sporting Lic. Fees	$ 1.00	169	$ 169.00
Sporting Fees	$ 1.00		
Sporting fees	$ 0.50		$ 85.50
Sporting fees	$ 0.10		$ 5.20
Sporting fees	$ 0.25		$ 6.50
Total All fees			**$ 36,495.26**

Respectfully submitted

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Town of Easton
Special Town Election

Bristol, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in elections to vote at:

Precincts 1, 2 & 4 – Easton Jr. High School Gymnasium, Columbus Avenue
Precincts 3 & 6 – Southeastern Regional High School Cafeteria, 250 Foundry Street
Precinct 5 – Easton Baptist Church, 195 Bay Road

On **TUESDAY, THE ELEVENTH DAY OF JANUARY 2005**, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes for the following question:

Question 1
Shall the Town of Easton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay the principal and interest on the additional bonds to be issued pursuant to the vote of the Town passed under Article 5 of the warrant for the December 6, 2004 town meeting in order to finance the construction of additions to and remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the Easton Junior High School and the Oliver Ames High School, including the cost of architectural services for plans and specifications and other related preliminary expenses, including project manager services relating thereto, and original equipment and furnishings and related site improvements?

Yes _____ No _____

Herof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this 29th day of November, 2004.

Colleen A. Corona
John S. Haederle
Charles P. King
Gerard S. Marsan
Colleen A. Less
Selectmen of Easton

A true copy. Attest:
Janet Andrus Linehan
Town Clerk

Bristol, ss. Easton, Mass. December 7, 2004
By Virtue Hereof and as within directed, I have this day posted attested copies of this Warrant.

John D. Melin, Constable of Easton

SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION
January 11, 2005

In accordance with the Warrant, the voters of the Town met at their respective polling places on Tuesday, January 11, 2005. The polls were opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m.

The following named persons were duly sworn and performed the duties of election officers:

Precinct One – J. Jacques Tremblay, Warden; Robert McLaughlin, Deputy Warden; Sandra Keach, Clerk; Albert Becker, Deputy Clerk; Wilfred Roberge, Beverly Smith, Barbara Takach, Checkers.

Precinct Two – Maureen Papineau, Warden; Dorothy Conceison, Deputy Warden; Jean Harney, Clerk, Patricia Baker, Deputy Clerk; Judith Thomas, John Papineau, Irene Roberge, Virginia Corte, Doris Welch, Checkers.

Precinct Three – Arlene Keach, Warden; Evelyn Carlson, Deputy Warden; Rena Salkovitz, Clerk, Joseph Camara, Deputy Clerk; Beverly Hanson, E. Pamela Corbett, Rose Furlong, Checkers.

Precinct Four – Lorraine Anderson, Acting Warden; Constance Dumoulin, Clerk; Laetitia Tremblay, Deputy Clerk; Ethel Gardner, Catharine Becker, David Devore, Bridget Dumoulin, Checkers.

Precinct Five – Blanche Hicks, Warden; Bennie Moore, Deputy Warden; Helena Luxton, Clerk; William McAndrews, Nicolina Previti, Jean Shearing, Melvin Smith, Checkers.

Precinct Six – Harvey Blackman, Warden; Anne Marie Martin, Clerk; Susan Henderson, Deputy Clerk; Estelle Blackman, Jean Fisher, Janice Davis, James Breton, Joan Hayward, Checkers.

OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

14,395 Registered Voters — **20% Turnout**

	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Total
Total Votes Cast:	312	581	347	619	620	422	2901
The result of the Special Election was:							
QUESTION 1 - School Debt Exclusion Override							
Yes	199	368	160	410	444	242	1823
No	113	213	187	209	176	180	1078
Blanks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	312	581	347	619	620	422	2901

A true record. Attest:

Janet Andrus Linehan
Town Clerk of Easton

TOWN OF EASTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

APRIL 7, 2005

BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton in the County of Bristol:
GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Easton qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Oliver Ames High School Gymnasium and Auditorium, in said Easton on Thursday, the 7th day of April, next, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act upon the following articles:

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2005
OLIVER AMES HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Richard C. Dailey at 7:10 p.m. with quorum present.

*The following non-voters were **VOTED** admittance to the hall: DEPARTMENT HEADS: (Per Charter Section 2-4 Shall Attend Town Meeting) Martha L. White, Town Administrator; Janet Andrus Linehan, Town Clerk; Anne Carney, Assistant Assessor; Wendy V. Nightingale, Town Accountant; William Simmons, School Superintendent; Wade Saucier, Health Director; Marc Rousseau, Planner; Michael Deltano, Information Systems Manager; D. Mark Trivett, Building Inspector; John J. Marsh, Water Superintendent. OTHER TOWN EMPLOYEES: Michael Green, Ed. D., Assistant to Superintendent; Marilyn Gordon, School Business Manager; Beverly Conte, Special Ed Director; Robert Smith, School Principal; Gary Mazzola, School Principal; Margaret Lynch, School Principal; Vanessa Beauchaine, School Principal; John Giuggio, School Principal; Luke Carroll, Assistant Principal; Annalee Bundy, Library Director; Eric Davis, Data Processing; Julie Bertram, Assistant Treasurer. OTHERS: Elaine Lucas, Brackett & Lucas, Town Counsel; James J. Hager, Supt. Southeastern Regional School District. MEDIA: Easton Journal: Sarah Johnson, Bill Gouveia; Media One: Robyn Souza; Enterprise: Vicki Downing, Denise Hill. REPRESENTATIVES: State Senator Robert Creedon; State Representative Geraldine Creedon; State Senator Brian Joyce; State Representative David Flynn; State Representative Christine Canavan; Congressman Stephen Lynch. REQUESTING ADMITTANCE FOR 4/7/05: Jay Manciocchi; Lori Atkins; Eammon Conway.*

ARTICLE 1. PROPOSED PROPOSITION 2 ½ OVERRIDE APPROPRIATION
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for departmental operating purposes and other town expenses beginning in fiscal year 2006, contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ referendum question under General Laws Chapter 59 §21C, or take any other action relative thereto.

Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,995,517, contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ referendum question under General Laws Chapter 59 §21C, said funds to be used to fund departmental operating and other town expenses as follows:

School operating budget	*$1,921,766*
Employee benefits and insurance (School and Town)	*$ 354,284*
Town operating budget reserve	*$ 719,467*

for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005.

EXPLANATION: This is the first step in approving a Proposition 2 ½ override for the Town's operating budget. Approval of this article would appropriate the additional funds beginning with the FY 2006 budget; the election scheduled for April 26 seeks approval to override the limitations of Proposition 2 ½.

A brief presentation has been prepared to explain this request.

The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple Majority

There was a motion for a secret ballot. Thirty-two voters stood in support. A secret ballot was then taken. ***YES 215. NO 129 - MOTION CARRIES.***

ARTICLE 2.
To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

At 8:22 p.m. it was moved and VOTED to DISSOLVE the Special Town Meeting. Total Voters present – 358.

A true record. Attest: ***Janet Andrus Linehan,*** *Town Clerk*

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof one at each meeting house and post office and one at the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium and one at the Town Offices, fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 14th day of March the year Two Thousand Five.

Colleen A. Corona, Chair
John S. Haederle, Clerk
Gerard S. Marsan
Colleen A. Less
Charles P. King
EASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

A True copy. Attest:
Janet Andrus Linehan
Town Clerk of Easton

Easton, Mass. 3/15/05
By virtue hereof and as within directed, I have this day posted attested copies of this Warrant.

John D. Melin, Constable of Easton

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Town of Easton
Annual Town Election
April 26, 2005

Bristol, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in elections to vote at:

Precincts 1, 2 & 4 – Easton Jr. High School Gymnasium, Columbus Avenue
Precincts 3 & 6 – Knights of Columbus Hall, 375 Foundry Street
Precinct 5 – Easton Baptist Church, 195 Bay Road

On TUESDAY, THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF APRIL, 2005, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes on one ballot for the following officers:

One Selectman for a term of three years;
One Assessor for a term of three years;
Two School Committee members for terms of three years;
One Board of Health member for a term of three years;
One Housing Authority member for a term of five years;
Three Finance Committee members for terms of three years;

And to vote on the following ballot question:

Ballot Question

Shall the Town of Easton be allowed to assess an additional $2,995,517 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding departmental operating and other town expenses as follows:

School operating budget	$1,921,766
Employee benefits and insurance (School and Town)	$ 354,284
Town operating budget reserve	$ 719,467

for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005?

_____ _____
Yes No

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this 21st day of March, 2005.

Collen A. Corona
Gerard S. Marsan
Colleen A. Less
Charles P. King
SELECTMEN OF EASTON

Easton, Mass. March 28, 2005
By virtue hereof and as within directed, I have this day posted attested copies of this Warrant.
John D. Melin, Constable of Easton

A true copy. Attest: *Janet Andrus Linehan*, Town Clerk of Easton

Annual Town Election
April 26, 2005

In accordance with the Warrant, the voters of the Town met at their respective polling places on Tuesday, April 26 2005. The polls were opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m.

The following named persons were duly sworn and performed the duties of election officers:

Precinct One – J. Jacques Tremblay, Warden; Robert McLaughlin, Deputy Warden; Sandra Keach, Clerk; Albert Becker, Deputy Clerk; Wilfred Roberge, Eleanor Bridge, Checkers.

Precinct Two – Maureen Papineau, Warden; Dorothy Conceison, Deputy Warden; Patricia Baker, Deputy Clerk; Judith Thomas, John Papineau, Virginia Corte, Doris Welch, Mary Jane Wood, Checkers.

Precinct Three – Arlene Keach, Warden; Evelyn Carlson, Deputy Warden; Rena Salkovitz, Clerk, Joseph Camara, Deputy Clerk; Beverly Hanson, E. Pamela Corbett, Rose Furlong, Checkers.

Precinct Four – Elizabeth Porter, Warden; Lorraine Anderson, Deputy Warden; Constance Dumoulin, Clerk; Laetitia Tremblay, Deputy Clerk; Ethel Gardner, Catharine Becker, David Devore, Barbara Walsh, Checkers.

Precinct Five – Blanche Hicks, Warden; Bennie Moore, Deputy Warden; Helena Luxton, Clerk; Nicolina Previti, Jean Shearing, Althea Thornton, Virginia Curley, Checkers.

Precinct Six – Harvey Blackman, Warden; Anthony Cabral, Deputy Warden; Anne Marie Martin, Clerk; Estelle Blackman, Jean Fisher, Janice Davis, Joan Hayward, Checkers.

OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS:

Registered Voters 14,507 **Turnout 24%**

Total Votes Cast:	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Total
	380	705	435	722	749	511	3502

Final Election Results: (Bold type = Elected to Office)	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Total
SELECTMEN (Three Years) (Not more than Two)							
Irwin M Cohen	172	354	203	342	333	224	1628
Catherine D Habig	162	289	191	297	357	225	1521
Blanks & Scattering	40	61	39	82	55	60	337
Write-Ins	6	1	2	1	4	2	16
Total	380	705	435	722	749	511	3502

ASSESSOR (Three Years) (One)							
Gerald J. Noonan	245	453	289	443	468	327	2225
Blanks & Scattering	133	250	143	275	280	183	1264
Write-Ins	2	2	3	4	1	1	13
Total	380	705	435	722	749	511	3502
SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Three Years) (Not more than Two)							
William P. Braun	228	417	262	398	421	286	2012
Caroline S. O'Neill	236	432	282	445	470	323	2188
Blanks & Scattering	295	560	323	596	606	413	2793
Write-Ins	1	1	3	5	1	0	11
Total	760	1410	870	1444	1498	1022	7004
BOARD OF HEALTH (Three Years) (One)							
Gilbert A. Heino	245	483	271	448	449	324	2220
Blanks & Scattering	132	222	161	271	300	187	1273
Write-Ins	3	0	3	3	0	0	9
Total	380	705	435	722	749	511	3502
HOUSING AUTHORITY (Five Years) (One)							
June H. Brousseau	242	453	283	446	453	332	2209
Blanks & Scattering	138	250	151	273	296	179	1287
Write-Ins	0	2	1	3	0	0	6
Total	380	705	435	722	749	511	3502
FINANCE COMMITTEE (Three Years) (Not More than Three)							
Stephen A. Drown	200	400	221	370	390	265	1846
Robert L. Hicks	219	422	252	399	432	287	2011
Brian P. Nagle	199	404	242	374	391	293	1903
Blanks & Scattering	522	888	587	1019	1033	687	4736
Write-Ins	0	1	3	4	1	1	10
Total	1140	2115	1305	2166	2247	1533	10506
Question 1 (Operational Override)							
Yes	170	325	123	347	368	194	1527
No	206	370	311	367	374	312	1940
Blanks	4	10	1	8	7	5	35
Total	380	705	435	722	749	511	3502

A true record. Attest: ***Janet Andrus Linehan,*** CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk

TOWN OF EASTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MAY 16, 2005

BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton in the County of Bristol:
GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Easton qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium in said Easton on Monday, the 16th day of May, next, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act upon the following articles:

Monday, May 16, 2005
Oliver Ames High School Gymnasium

Due to the High School construction project, at 7:00 p.m. Moderator Richard C. Dailey and Town Clerk Janet Andrus Linehan met at the Auditorium. Linehan made a motion to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting to the Gymnasium at 7:05 p.m. Dailey seconded the motion. So Voted.

At 7:30 p.m. there being no quorum present, it was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting to Monday, June 6, 2005 in the Oliver Ames High School Gymnasium. So Voted. Total Present – 150.

A true record. Attest: ***Janet Andrus Linehan****, Town Clerk of Easton*

NOTICE OF ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Be it known that the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 16, 2005 was duly adjourned to

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2005 AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P.M.

In the Oliver Ames High School Gymnasium to see what action the town will take in respect to:

ARTICLES 1-36, inclusive

And any all matters that may legally come before the meeting.

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk

ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2005

The Adjourned Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Richard C. Dailey at 7:23 p.m. with quorum present.

The following non-registered voters were voted admittance to the hall: DEPARTMENT HEADS: (Per Charter Section 2-4 Shall Attend Town Meeting): Martha L. White, Town Administrator; Janet Andrus Linehan, Town Clerk; Anne Carney, Assistant Assessor; Wendy V. Nightingale, Town Accountant; Teresa DeSilva, Treasurer /Collector; William

Simmons, School Superintendent; Wade Saucier, Health Director; Marc Rousseau, Planner; Michael Deltano, Information Systems Manager; D. Mark Trivett, Building Inspector; John J. Marsh, Water Superintendent. OTHER TOWN EMPLOYEES: Michael Green, Ed. D., Assistant to Superintendent; Marilyn Gordon, School Business Manager; Annalee Bundy, Library Director; Eric Davis, Data Processing. OTHERS: Elaine Lucas, Brackett & Lucas, Town Counsel; James J. Hager, Supt. Southeastern Regional School District. MEDIA: Enterprise: Vicki Downing and Denise Hill. Easton Journal: Josh Press, Bill Gouveia; Media One: Robyn Souza. REPRESENTATIVES: Congressman Stephen Lynch; State Senators Robert Creedon and Brian Joyce; State Representatives Christine Canavan, Geraldine Creedon and David Flynn. MICROPHONE CARRIERS: Roberta Anderson; Jared Nikolsky and David J. Stavros, Jr. (Registered Voters.)

REQUESTING ADMITTANCE FOR 5/16/05: Jerome Burke and Robert Klane, Southeastern Regional School District; Michael Glover, 13 Highland Street.

ARTICLE 1. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS

To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Assessors, Board of Health, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, School Committee, Town Accountant, Director of Public Works, and other Departments, Boards and Committees of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Moved that the Town vote to accept the reports of the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Assessors, Board of Health, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, School Committee, Town Accountant, Director of Public Works, and other Departments, Boards and Committees of the Town.

SELECTMAN: **Corona**
EXPLANATION: This is an annual vote.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 1 TOWN MEETING ACTION: VOTED

ARTICLE 2. REVOLVING FUND FOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 44, section 53E 1/2, to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2006, known as the "Conservation Chapter 227 Filing Fee Account", which shall be accounted for separately from all other monies of the Town, and to which shall be deposited departmental fees and receipts, to pay for the reasonable costs and expenses, for supplies and services as deemed necessary by the Commission to aid it in making its decisions on such applications, or in enforcement cases where such applications should have been legally filed, or for other such enforcement actions, and for the administrative costs related thereto, with said departmental fees and receipts to be expended without appropriation, and to specify as follows:

1. The revolving fund shall be expended only for the purpose of paying for supplies and services, and the administrative costs related thereto, as deemed necessary by the Commission to aid it in making its decisions on such conservation applications, or on necessary enforcement actions;
2. Only fees and receipts received from applicants for Conservation Permits, or Application for "Requests for Determination", shall be deposited in such account;
3. The Conservation Commission shall be the only Town body authorized to expend such fund, and
4. The amounts expended from Fiscal 2006, "Conservation Chapter 227 Filing Fee Account," shall not exceed $35,000.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Conservation Commission

Moved that the Town vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2006, as printed in your warrant.

SELECTMAN: **Haederle**
EXPLANATION: This article is required annually to establish the Conservation Commission's revolving account.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 2 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 3. REVOLVING FUND FOR PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Planning & Zoning Board, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. 44, Section 53E 1/2, to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2006 known as the "Subdivision Review and Inspection Fees Account", which shall be accounted for separately from all other moneys of the Town, and to which are to be deposited fees received in connection with subdivision approval for application review and inspections during construction, to pay for the reasonable costs and expenses of the Board for expert engineering and consultant services and administrative costs related thereto, as deemed necessary by the Board with said fees to be expended without further appropriation, and to specify as follows:

1. The revolving fund shall be expended only for the purpose of paying for the services of expert engineers and consultants, and related administrative cost, deemed necessary by the Board to pay for the reasonable costs and expenses of application review and inspections during construction; and any other related expenses of the Planning and Zoning Board.
2. Only fees received from applicants in connection with subdivision approval for application review and inspections during construction shall be deposited in such account.
3. The Planning & Zoning Board shall be the only Town body authorized to expend such fund, and;
4. The amounts expended from Fiscal 2006 "Subdivision Review and Inspection Fees" shall not exceed $50,000.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Planning and Zoning Board

Moved that the Town vote to authorize the Planning & Zoning Board to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2006, as printed in your warrant.

SELECTMAN: **Less**
EXPLANATION: This article is required annually to establish the Planning and Zoning Board's revolving account.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 3 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 4. REVOLVING FUND FOR BOARD OF HEALTH – FOOD INSPECTION SERVICES

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, section 53E 1/2, to authorize the Board of Health to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2006, which shall be accounted for separately from all other monies for the Town, to which shall be credited only departmental fees from holders of any food permits to be known as "Food Inspection Services/Education Account", and funds from said account may be paid out to any qualified Food Inspector for Food Service Inspections and/or for educational seminars for food handlers and administrative costs related thereto without further appropriation, and which said authorization to be made upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen, and to specify as follows:

1. The revolving fund may be expended for the purpose of paying any qualified Food Inspector for performing inspections, for the purpose of paying for educational seminars for food handlers, and for administrative costs related thereto;

2. Only fees received from properly permitted food establishments shall be deposited in said account;
3. The Board of Health shall be the only body authorized to expend such fund, and
4. The amounts expended from Fiscal 2006, "Food Inspection Services/Education Account", shall not exceed $30,000.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Health

Moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Health to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2006, as printed in your warrant.

SELECTMAN: **King**
EXPLANATION: This article is required annually to establish the Board of Health's revolving account.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 4 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 5. SUPPLEMENT FY 2005 BUDGETS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement existing budgets for the Fiscal Year 2005 budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Moved to dismiss Article 5.

SELECTMAN: **Cohen**
EXPLANATION: No additional funding for departmental budgets is needed.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Dismissal
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Dismissal

ARTICLE 5 TOWN MEETING ACTION: DISMISSED.

ARTICLE 6. AMEND FY 2005 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2005 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from available Community Preservation Funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of Community Preservation Projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Community Preservation Committee

Moved that the Town vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2005 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from available Community Preservation Funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of Community Preservation Projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year.

SELECTMAN: **Corona**
EXPLANATION: This article amends the current year's budget for the Community Preservation Committee. Patricia Hunt, Chair of the CPA Committee, would like to make a presentation to Town Meeting to further explain this article.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 6 TOWN MEETING ACTION: VOTED.

ARTICLE 7. REPORT AND FY 2006 BUDGET OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2006 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of Community Preservation Projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Community Preservation Committee

Moved that the Town vote to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2006 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of Community Preservation Projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year.

SELECTMAN: **Haederle**

EXPLANATION: This article proposes the fiscal 2006 budget for the Community Preservation Committee. Patricia Hunt, Chair of the CPA Committee, would like to make a presentation to Town Meeting to further explain this article.

VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority

SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 7 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 8. FUNDING FOR CONTRACT FOR DPW UNION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money needed to fund the incremental cost items contained in any collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Southeastern Public Employees Association/DPW Unit if such agreement is negotiated and mutually ratified prior to Town Meeting; or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Moved that the Town vote to approve the funding of the incremental cost items contained in a collective bargaining agreement negotiated between the Town and the Southeastern Public Employees Association/DPW Unit, such agreement to be effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007, with costs for Fiscal Year 2005 being funded in the DPW fiscal year 2005 operating budget.

SELECTMAN: **Less**

EXPLANATION: The DPW and the Board of Selectmen have agreed to a one-year contract for fiscal 2004 that calls for an extension of the prior contract with no salary increases. In addition, a three year contact has been agreed to for fiscal years 2005 through 2007 which provides for a maximum total of 11.5% in base salary increases over the life of the contract. The full impact of these increases will not be felt until fiscal year 2008. The contract also achieves a reduction in the Town's contribution to employees' health care, as we have been able to accomplish in all other town union contracts settled to date.

VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority

SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 8 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 9. GRANTING EASEMENT TO MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an easement to Massachusetts Electric to facilitate the installation, operation and maintenance of an overhead/underground electrical distribution system for the Oliver Ames High School on Lothrop Street as described in an easement document to be recorded at the Bristol County Registry of Deeds and as shown on a plan marked Exhibit A attached thereto, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an easement to Massachusetts Electric to facilitate the installation, operation and maintenance of an overhead/underground electrical distribution system for the Oliver Ames High School as depicted on a plan prepared by Massachusetts Electric entitled "Oliver Ames High School Proposed Pad Location off Pole 13A2 Lothrop Street, being drawing number 24079 dated 1-27-05 and as printed in your warrant.

SELECTMAN: **King**
EXPLANATION: This easement is needed to provide electrical service to the high school.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 9 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 10. AMEND LOCAL WETLANDS BY-LAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the 'Code of the Town of Easton, Chapter 227, Wetlands Protection' in the following manner:

227-2. Jurisdiction.

Insert the term "rivers" before the term "streams" in the fourth line of §227-2, as that is currently published in the Easton Town Code.

227-7. Issuance or denial of permit; terms of permit.

C. Insert the following language at the end of Subsection C as follows:

"Provided, further, that the time from the date of an appeal of said permit or an appeal of the state order of conditions issued by the Conservation Commission on the same proposed work as the permit until all such appeals shall be resolved through the entire appellate process, including all possible administrative and judicial appeals, shall not be considered as part of the three- or five-year permit period, notwithstanding that no judicial order to stay the work has been entered. This tolling provision shall be applicable to all permits or extension permits in effect on the effective date of this provision. Where the time period of a permit has been stopped under this tolling provision, the Commission shall review the proposed project and permit conditions for possible amendment of the permit and work shall not commence until the completion of such review. "

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Conservation Commission

Moved that the Town vote to amend the 'Code of the Town of Easton, Chapter 227, Wetlands Protection' as printed in your warrant.

SELECTMAN: **Cohen**
EXPLANATION: The recommended changes to the Wetlands by-law will clarify the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction over rivers. Further, clarification is provided to allow that, if the Commission's approval of a project is appealed, the requirement that the work be completed within a certain time period is halted while the appeal is resolved. A representative from the Conservation Commission is available should further explanation be needed.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Recommended

ARTICLE 10 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 11. AMENDMENT TO ZONING MAP TO REZONE LAND ON POQUANTICUT AVENUE

To see if the Town will vote that the Town of Easton Zoning Map be amended to change the following described area from Industrial to Residential: The land in Easton, Bristol County, Massachusetts on the Easterly side of Poquanticut Avenue containing two (2) acres and twenty-four (24) rods of land, be the same more or less, and is bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of said lot, the corner of land now or formerly of Hannah Perry; thence South 84 ½ degrees East inline of the wall on the North side of the land, fifteen (15) rods to a stake and stone, a corner; thence North 9 degrees East by the fence and a wall in line of a wood lot, now or formerly owned by Albert Hayward, twenty-one (21) rods seventeen (17) links to the wall of Sprout Lands (now or formerly owned by Albert Hayward), a corner; thence North 88 degrees West by the wall, seventeen (17) rods and twelve (12) links to the wall of the garden lot of tenement house before mentioned, a corner; thence South 2 degrees West in the line of the wall, twenty (20) rods and nineteen (19) links to the first bound. Said parcel is shown as Parcel 33 of Assessors map R10, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Citizen Petition

Moved by Petitioner Aaron Wluka that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, to amend the May 17, 2004 Town of Easton Zoning Map (original date March 7, 1973) by rezoning the property shown as Parcel 33 on Assessor's Map R10, containing 2.4 acres, more or less, located between Poquanticut Avenue and Guinevere Road from Industrial to Residential and to accept the report of the Planning and Zoning Board in relation to this article.

EXPLANATION: to be provided by petitioner
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: two-thirds
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 11 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 12. AMENDMENT TO ZONING MAP TO REZONE TOWN-OWNED LAND

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A, to amend the May 17, 2004 Town of Easton Zoning Map (original date March 7, 1973) and rezone the following properties, all of which are owned by the Town of Easton under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission, as follows:

From Residential to Municipal and Open Space.

Map/Lot	Location	Lot Size	Recorded	Book/Page
18R-110	808R Foundry St.	2.00 ac.	07-14-2004	13873-0205
18R-116	810R Foundry St.	3.00 ac.	07-14-2004	13873-0224
18R-123	820R Foundry St.	1.20 ac.	07-14-2004	13873-0222
18R-108	804R Foundry St.	1.00 ac.	07-14-2004	13873-0221
18R-115	810R Foundry St.	2.00 ac.	07-14-2005	13873-0220
18R-109	808R Foundry St.	2.00 ac.	07-14-2005	13873-0219
18R-112	810R Foundry St.	2.00 ac.	07-14-2004	13873-0218
18R-113	810R Foundry St.	2.00 ac.	07-14-2004	13873-0217
18R-30	736R Foundry St.	4.00 ac.	07-14-2004	13873-0216
18R-119	15R Woodland Dr.	2.50 ac.	07-14-2004	13873-0215
19R-36	23R Olde Farm Rd.	1.76 ac.	07-14-2004	13873-0214
18R-111	808R Foundry St.	2.00 ac.	07-14-2004	13873-0223
18R-122	816R Foundry St.	7.00 ac.	07-14-2004	13873-0213
4R-72	19R Possum Run Rd.	3.39 ac.	12-14-2004	14345-278

From Industrial and Residential to Municipal and Open Space.

Map/Lot	Location	Lot Size	Recorded	Book/Page
U54-5	2R Foundry St.	10.00 ac.	06-09-2004	13749-168

and to accept the report of the Planning & Zoning Board in relation to this article, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by Conservation Commission

Moved that the Town vote to amend the Town of Easton Zoning Map and rezone properties owned by the Town of Easton under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission as printed in your warrant.

SELECTMAN: **Corona**
EXPLANATION: Most of these parcels were acquired by the Conservation Commission through what is known as a land of low value auction, with the exception of the Possum Run Road property, which was a gift, and the 2R Foundry Street property, which was purchased by the Conservation Commission. The zoning of all parcels should be changed to reflect their actual ownership and use.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: two-thirds
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Recommended Unanimously
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 12 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 13. ESTABLISH NOISE BY-LAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton, specifically by inserting a new Chapter 168 therein, to read as follows:

Chapter 168

NOISE BY-LAW

§ 168-1. Declaration of Policy.

§ 168-2. Definitions.

§ 168-3. Designated Noise Zones.

§ 168-4. Exterior Noise Standards.

§ 168-5. Construction Noise Standards.

§ 168-6. Maintenance of Residential Property.

§ 168-7. Special Provisions.

§ 168-8. Penalties for Violations.

§ 168-9. Severability.

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§ 168-1. Declaration of Policy.

In order to control unnecessary, excessive and annoying noise in the Town of Easton, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Town to prohibit such noise generated from or by all sources as specified in this By-Law.

§ 168-2. Definitions.

Except as may be specified herein, acoustical terminology used throughout this By-Law is that approved as American National Standard Acoustical Terminology by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The following words, phrases and terms as used in this By-Law shall have the meanings as indicated below:

(a) BACKGROUND SOUND LEVEL shall mean the sound level associated with a given environment, being a composite of sounds from all sources excluding the Intruding Noise, at the location and approximate time at which a comparison with the Intruding Noise is to be made.

(b) CONSTRUCTION shall mean those activities requiring a building permit, and shall also include any site preparation, cemetery burial and caretaking operations, seismic surveys, grading, assembly, erection, substantial repair, alteration, or similar action, including demolition, for or of public or private rights-of-way, structures, utilities or similar property.

(c) The abbreviation dBA shall mean the A-weighted sound pressure level expressed in decibels and referenced to 20 micropascals.

(d) DOMESTIC POWER EQUIPMENT shall mean electrical, battery, gas or generator powered equipment intended for use in residential areas by a homeowner or person working on behalf of the homeowner for upkeep and maintenance of the property. Examples include but are not limited to lawn mowers, riding tractors, leaf blowers, chainsaws, log choppers, paving rollers, or other lawn and garden tools, drills and grinders, as well as equipment used for infrequent vehicle repair on residential property.

(e) EMERGENCY VEHICLE shall mean any vehicle operated in an effort to protect, provide or restore public safety, including, but not limited to, ambulances, police vehicles and fire vehicles.

(f) EMERGENCY WORK shall mean any work performed in an effort to protect, provide or restore public safety, or work by private or public utilities when restoring utility service.

(g) ENFORCING PERSON shall mean any police officer of the Town of Easton or any other Town employee designated by the Selectmen for this purpose.

(h) IMPACT DEVICE shall mean a construction device in which or by which a hammer, meaning a moving mass of hard solid material, is mechanically by means of a working fluid or compressed air caused to repetitively impact upon and transmit kinetic energy to a tool. The tool may be included as a part of the device, as in the case of a moil on a paving breaker or the drill steel of a jackhammer, or it may be a mass to which the impact device is temporarily connected as in the case of a pile and pile driver. Examples of impact devices are pile drivers, paving breakers, power impact hammers, impact wrenches, riveters and stud drivers.

(i) INTRUDING NOISE shall mean the total sound level created, caused, maintained by, or originating from a source at a specified location while the source is in operation.

(j) L_{eq}, equivalent sound level, is the level of a constant sound which, in a given situation and time period, would convey the same sound energy as does the actual time-varying sound during the same period, as measured with a sound level meter measuring L_{eq}.

(k) PLAINLY AUDIBLE shall be defined as five (5) dB over the background sound level.

(l) PERSON shall mean a person, firm, association, co-partnership, joint venture, corporation or any entity recognized by applicable law, public or private in nature.

(m) RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY shall mean all properties used for Dwelling purposes as defined in the Town of Easton Zoning By-Law.

(n) SOUND LEVEL shall mean the instantaneous A-weighted sound pressure level, in decibels, as measured with a sound level meter set to the "A" weighting scale, slow response.

(o) SOUND LEVEL METER shall mean an instrument meeting or exceeding American National Standard Institute's Standard S1.4-1983 for Type 1 precision integrated sound level meter with key lock feature, or as such standards may subsequently be amended or updated by ANSI.

§ 168-3. Designated Noise Zones.

The properties hereinafter described are hereby assigned to the following noise zones:

NOISE ZONE I: All residential properties and the grounds of any school, hospital or similar health care institution, house of worship or library while the same is in use, and any Eleemosynary, Municipal or Open Space Zoning District.

NOISE ZONE II: All other properties.

§ 168-4. Exterior Noise Standards.

It shall be unlawful for any person or persons occupying or having charge of any building or premises or any part thereof, or any vehicle in the town, to cause or suffer or allow any unnecessary, loud, excessive or unusual noises which causes the sound level when measured on any other property to exceed the greater of:

(a) The maximum allowable exterior sound level outlined in Table I; or

(b) Five dB over the Background Sound Level.

Table I. Maximum Allowable Exterior Sound Level

Noise Zone	Daytime level 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM	Nighttime Level 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM
I	60 dBA	50 dBA
II	70 dBA	65 dBA

If the Intruding Noise source is continuous and cannot reasonably be discontinued or stopped for a time period whereby the background sound level can be determined, the measured sound level obtained while the source is in operation shall be compared directly to the maximum allowable exterior sound level outlined in Table I.

This section shall include, but not be limited to, operation of any radio or other mechanical sound-making device or instrument, or reproducing device, or in the playing of any band, orchestra, musician, or group of musicians, or in the use of any device to amplify the aforesaid, or the making of loud outcries, exclamations or other loud or boisterous noises, or loud and boisterous singing by any person or groups of persons, or in the use of any device to amplify the aforesaid noises where the noise is plainly audible at a distance of one hundred fifty (150') from the building, structure, vehicle or premises in which or from which it is produced. The fact that the noise is plainly audible at a distance of one hundred fifty feet (150') from the vehicle or premises from which it originates shall constitute prima facie evidence of a violation of this bylaw.

§ 168-5. Construction Noise Standards.

Noise associated with construction is permitted between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, without restriction.

No licensed contractor or agent thereof shall perform any outside work, including, but not limited to, construction, renovation, demolition, loading or unloading materials, or equipment operation (including the running of equipment motors) between the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., Monday through Saturday and all hours on Sundays and legal holidays. No work shall be performed beyond the hours specified without expressed approval of the Town of Easton building inspector and the issuance of a work permit. This section shall **not** apply to Maintenance Noise performed by private homeowners utilizing domestic equipment such as lawnmowers and power saws, or to contractors performing emergency repairs. Further, this section shall **not** apply to projects for, or on behalf of, the Town of Easton.

Nothing in this Section shall preclude the Planning and Zoning Board from establishing a construction plan for a particular large scale development that is more stringent than the standards herein.

§ 168-6. Maintenance of Residential Property.

Noise associated with the maintenance of residential properties through the use of Domestic Power Equipment is permitted between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Sundays and legal holidays.

§ 168-7. Special Provisions.

Noise associated with the following activities shall be exempted from the provisions of this By-Law:

(a) Emergency work or emergency vehicles.

(b) The operation of any vehicular alarm, provided it terminates within 15 minutes of the initially recorded complaint.

(c) Activities, other than construction, conducted in public and/or private parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, and on public or private school grounds so long as authorized by the appropriate jurisdiction including but not limited to school and municipal athletic and entertainment events. Public Address systems associated with school and municipal athletic events are permitted except between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.; public address systems are otherwise prohibited.

(d) Occasional outdoor gatherings, public dances, shows, and sporting and entertainment events provided said events are conducted pursuant to a permit or license issued by the appropriate jurisdiction relative to the staging of said events.

(e) Snow removal performed by snow blowers, snow throwers or snow plows when appropriately outfitted with a muffler.

(f) Municipal and other governmental operations including but not limited to street sweeping, mosquito spraying, infrastructure repair operations, and the like.

(g) Any bell or chime from any school or church.

(h) Sound sources typically associated with residential uses (e.g.: children at play, air conditioners.)

(i) Sound associated with agricultural operations on agricultural land.

(j) Blasting operations during daytime hours.

(k) Sounds associated with the lawful discharge of firearms during daytime hours.

(l) Sounds associated with the activities of all recreational sports leagues, whether municipal, private or not-for-profit.

(m) Any activity to the extent regulation thereof has been preempted by State or Federal Law.

§ 168-8. Penalties for Violations.

(a) Any measured noise exceeding the sound level standards as specified in this by-law shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of a violation of the provisions of this By-Law.

(b) Violations of this by-law, in the discretion of the enforcing person, may be enforced by non-criminal disposition as provided in M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 21D.

(c) The penalty for a violation under Article 5 shall be $300 for each offense, however, at the discretion of the enforcing person, a warning may be issued in lieu of the penalty if all violating construction activities are suspended to the reasonable satisfaction of the enforcing person.

(d) The penalty for a violation under Articles 4 and 6, shall be a warning for the first offense, $50 for a second offense, $100 for a third offense, $300 for a fourth and each succeeding offense.

(e) Each such act which either continues or is repeated more than ½ hour after issuance of a written notice of violation of this bylaw shall be a separate offense and shall be prosecuted as a separate offense. Further, each day or part thereof shall constitute a separate offense.

(f) If the violation occurs on rental property which is not owner-occupied, then the owner must also be notified in writing that the violation has occurred.

(g) If the person or persons responsible for an activity which violates this bylaw cannot be determined, the person in lawful custody and/or control of the premises including but not limited to the owner, lessee or occupant of the property on which the activity is located, shall be deemed responsible for the violation.

§ 168-9. Severability.

The invalidity of any section or provision of this By-Law shall not invalidate any other section or provision hereof.

Or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Moved that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton, specifically by inserting a new Chapter 168 therein, as printed in your warrant.

SELECTMAN: **Haederle**
EXPLANATION: This by-law is proposed to provide standards for the emission of noise throughout the community. A presentation has been prepared to further explain the proposed by-law.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority

SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 13 TOWN MEETING ACTION: NOT A VOTE.

ARTICLE 14. AMENDMENT TO ZONING BY-LAW REGARDING NOISE STANDARDS

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A, to amend the Zoning By-Law of the Town of Easton, adopted at Town Meeting, March 27, 1973 and amended through November 17, 2003, specifically Section 11-1 thereof, as follows:

1. By deleting the words "noise or" within the first paragraph;
2. By deleting paragraph 8 in its entirety;
3. By renumbering paragraph 9 to be paragraph 8.

And to accept the report of the Planning and Zoning Board in relation to this Article, or to take any other action relative thereto

Submitted by Planning & Zoning Board

Moved to dismiss Article 14.

SELECTMAN: **Less**
EXPLANATION: With passage of the noise by-law under Article 13, the zoning by-law needs to be amended to avoid conflicts between the two by-laws.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: two-thirds
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 14 TOWN MEETING ACTION: DISMISSED.

ARTICLE 15. AMENDMENT TO TOWN CODE TO ESTABLISH PENALTY FOR NOISE VIOLATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton, specifically Appendix A within Chapter 50, Noncriminal Disposition of Violations, by inserting a new paragraph 25 therein to read as follows:

25. Noise Bylaw
    Penalty under Article 5:
        $300 for each offense, however, at the discretion of the enforcing person, a warning may be issued in lieu of the penalty if all violating construction activities are suspended to the reasonable satisfaction of the enforcing person.
    Penalty under Articles 4 and 6:
        First offense: warning
        Second offense: $50
        Third offense: $100
        Fourth and each succeeding offense: $300
    Enforcing agent: Police

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Moved to dismiss Article 15.

SELECTMAN: **King**
EXPLANATION: Appendix A in the Town Code is essentially a list of all penalties and the entity that enforces them. This proposed amendment adds to that list the penalties for violation of the noise by-law.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 15 TOWN MEETING ACTION: DISMISSED.

A motion was made to RECONSIDER Article 13. Motion to reconsider was voted. RECONSIDERATION FAILED.

ARTICLE 16. STREET ACCEPTANCE – LILAC LANE

To see if the town will vote to accept the following named street or way, LILAC LANE, as a public way, pursuant to MGL Chapter 82, from Station 0+00 to Station 6+14.18 as shown on a plan of land entitled "Chestnut Farms" drafted by Ribelin Land Surveys, Inc., dated February 6, 1998 as approved by the Planning & Zoning Board on January 13, 1999 and recorded with the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 387, Pages 3 and 4; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a drainage easement across Lots 2 and 3 containing 32, 664 square feet and a 20 feet wide utility easement along the shared property line between Lots 3 and 4 all as shown on the "Chestnut Farms" Definitive Subdivision Plan and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said LILAC LANE, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Moved to dismiss Articles 16 through 23.

SELECTMAN: **Cohen**
EXPLANATION: None of these streets were completed in time for acceptance.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Dismissal
PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Dismissal

ARTICLES 16 – 23 TOWN MEETING ACTION: DISMISSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 17. STREET ACCEPTANCE – BARBERRY LANE

To see if the town will vote to accept the following named street or way, BARBERRY LANE, as a public way, pursuant to MGL Chapter 82, from Station 0+00 to Station 1+92.96 as shown on a plan of land entitled "Chestnut Farms" drafted by Ribelin Land Surveys, Inc., dated February 6, 1998 as approved by the Planning & Zoning Board on January 13, 1999 and recorded with the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 387, Pages 3 and 4; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a drainage easement across Lots 2 and 3 containing 32,664 square feet, as shown on the previously referenced "Chestnut Farms" Definitive Subdivision Plan; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said BARBERRY LANE, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 18. STREET ACCEPTANCE – ROOSEVELT CIRCLE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following named street or way, ROOSEVELT CIRCLE, as a public way, pursuant to M. G. L. c. 82, from Station 0+00 to Station 4+50 as shown on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land of the "Continuum Care Park" in Easton, Massachusetts drafted by J. K. Holmgren & Associates, Inc., dated May 3, 1993 and revised June 14, 1993 and June 24, 1993, as approved by the Planning & Zoning Board on September 18, 1996 and recorded with the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 357, Page 56; containing 34,024± square feet, all as shown on the entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land of the "Continuum Care Park" and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept an easement deed, pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, for a utility easement across Lot 1 and land of Douglas A. King, containing 5,844 square feet; an access, utility, and drainage easement, across Lot 2 and Lot 3, containing 53,328 square feet; and an access, utility, and drainage easement, across Lot 1 and land of Douglas. A. King, Trustee, Villa Rosa Nominee Trust, containing 43,383 square feet; as shown on the entitled "Easement Plan of Land in Easton, Massachusetts" and on the entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land of the "Continuum Care Park" and, further to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said way, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 19. STREET ACCEPTANCE – BENSON CIRCLE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following named street or way, BENSON CIRCLE, as a public way, pursuant to M. G. L. c. 82, from Station 0+25 to Station 3+10.04 as shown on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land Union Village in Easton, MA", drafted by J. K. Holmgren & Associates, Inc., dated August 23, 1995 and revised through April 9, 1996, as approved by the Planning & Zoning Board on August 7, 1996 and recorded with the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 312, Pages 63 through 67, containing 19,969± square feet, all as shown on the entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land "Union Village" and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept an easement deed, pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, for a drainage and utility easement across Lot 9, containing 12,468 square feet; as shown on the entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land Union Village in Easton, MA" and, further to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 3 and 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said way, or take any other action thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 20. STREET ACCEPTANCE – CHARLES WAY

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following named street or way, CHARLES WAY, as a public way, pursuant to M. G. L. c. 82, from Station 0+25 to Station 2+42.9 as shown on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land "Union Village", drafted by J. K. Holmgren & Associates, Inc., dated August 23, 1995 and revised through April 9, 1996, as approved by the Planning & Zoning Board on August 7, 1996 and recorded with the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 312, Pages 63 through 67, containing 16,668± square feet, all as shown on the entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land "Union Village" and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept an easement deed, pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, for a drainage easement across Lot 17, containing 652 square feet; a utility easement, across Lot 15, Lot 16, and Lot 17, containing 13,458 square feet; and a utility easement, across Parcel A, containing 6,900 square feet; as shown on the entitled "Plan of Land in Easton, MA" and on the entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land Union Village in Easton, MA" and, further to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 3 and 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said way, or take any other action thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 21. STREET ACCEPTANCE – THEODORE CIRCLE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following named street or way, THEODORE CIRCLE, as a public way, pursuant to M. G. L. c. 82, from Station 0+25 to Station 4+49.97 as shown on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land "Union Village", drafted by J. K. Holmgren & Associates, Inc., dated August 23, 1995 and revised through April 9, 1996, as approved by the Planning & Zoning Board on August 7, 1996 and recorded with the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 312, Pages 63 through 67, containing 26,987± square feet, all as shown on the entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land "Union Village" and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept an easement deed, pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, for a drainage easement across Lot 1, containing 17,616 square feet; and a utility easement, across Lot 1 and Lot 2, containing 8,076 square feet; as shown on the entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land Union Village in Easton, MA" and, further to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said way, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 22. STREET ACCEPTANCE – CLARA HOWARD WAY

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following named street or way, CLARA HOWARD WAY, as a public way, pursuant to M. G. L. c. 82, from Station 0+00 to Station 27+70.47 as shown on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land "Union Village", drafted by J. K. Holmgren & Associates, Inc., dated August 23, 1995 and revised through April 9, 1996, as approved by the Planning & Zoning Board on August 7, 1996 and recorded with the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 312, Pages 63 through 67, containing 142,354± square feet, all as shown on the "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land "Union Village" and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept an easement deed, pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, for a drainage easement across Lot 1, containing 17,616 square feet; a drainage easement, across Lot 4, containing 6,282 square feet; a drainage easement, across Lot 5 and Lot 6, containing 26,365 square feet; a utility easement across Lot 6 and Lot 7, containing 16,963 square feet; a utility and drainage easement, across Lot 9, containing 12,468 square feet; a drainage easement, across Lot 12 and Lot 13, containing 16,950 square feet; a drainage easement across Lot 17, containing 652 square feet; a drainage easement, across Lot 19, containing 21,089 square feet; and a drainage easement, across Lot 18, containing 1,890 square feet; as shown on the entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land Union Village in Easton, MA" and, further to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 3 and 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said way, or take any other action thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 23. STREET ACCEPTANCE – EMILY DRIVE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following named street or way, EMILY DRIVE, as a public way, pursuant to M. G. L. c. 82, from Station 0+00 to Station 4+61.67 as shown on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Plan Set Emily Drive, Proposed Residential Development", drafted by Eamon J. Cox, P. E., dated January 6, 2004 and revised through May 8, 2004, as approved by the Planning & Zoning Board on May 15, 2004 and recorded with the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 426, Pages 48 through 52, containing 28,735 square feet, all as shown on the "Definitive Plan Set Emily Drive, Proposed Residential Development" and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept an easement deed, pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, for a drainage easement across Lot 4, containing 15,347 square feet; and a utility easement, across Parcel A, containing 6,900 square feet; as shown on the entitled "Plan of Land in Easton, MA" and on the entitled "Definitive Plan Set Emily Drive" and, further to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 3 and 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said way, or take any other action thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 24. DISPOSAL OF LAND IN TANGLEWOOD SUBDIVISION

To see if the Town will vote to declare the parcel shown as Lot 99 on Assessor's Map 15R, having an area of 6,700 square feet more or less, as surplus and available for disposition the Board of Selectmen having voted that said parcel of land is no longer needed for other municipal purposes and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of said property, as well as property shown as Lot 16 on Assessor's Map 15R, having an area of 2.1 acres, more or less, and to establish a minimum sale price for said disposition, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Moved that the Town vote to declare the parcel shown as Lot 99 on Assessor's Map 15R, having an area of 6,700 square feet more or less, as surplus and available for disposition, the Board of Selectmen having voted that said parcel

of land is no longer needed for other municipal purposes and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of said property, as well as property shown as Lot 16 on Assessor's Map 15R, having an area of 2.1 acres, more or less, and to establish a minimum total sale price of $675,000 for said disposition.

SELECTMAN: **Less**
EXPLANATION: These parcels of land are located in the midst of the residential homes in the Tanglewood subdivision off of Foundry Street. Combined, they have significant value and the Selectmen are seeking your authorization to sell them. In accordance with state law, the proceeds from the sale of real estate can only be used for purposes for which borrowing is allowed. It is our intent to utilize the funds to address future capital needs.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: two-thirds
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 24 TOWN MEETING ACTION: DECLARED 2/3 VOTE BY MODERATOR. (NO - 26; YES - MORE THAN 52).

ARTICLE 25. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT OF LAND FROM HIGHLAND PLAZA LLC
To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a gift of land from Highland Plaza LLC said land to be utilized for the widening of Foundry Street as depicted on a plan entitled "Plan Showing Widening and Relocation of Foundry Street (Route 106/123) and Eastman Street (Route 106) Easton Massachusetts" dated April 13, 2005, Plan prepared by Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. 105 Central Street Suite 3100, Stoneham, MA 02180 and surveyed by Jeffrey P. Bradford, Professional Land Surveyor, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a gift of land from Highland Plaza LLC as printed in your warrant.

SELECTMAN: **King**
EXPLANATION: The owners of the Highland Plaza property are making a donation of land to facilitate the widening of Foundry Street in the vicinity of the Foundry Street/Eastman Street intersection. The improvements to that intersection are being made entirely at the expense of Highland Plaza LLC
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 25 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 26. TRANSFER OF PARCELS TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION
To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of the following parcels to the Conservation Commission for all purposes included in General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8C, as it now reads or may hereafter be amended, the Board of Selectmen having voted that said parcels of land are no longer needed for other municipal purposes, pursuant to the authority contained in Section 15A, Chapter 40 of the General laws, as listed below:

Map/Lot	Location	Lot Size	Book/Page
41U/95	10 Caroline Road	40,050 sq. ft.	13575/140
41U/103	11 Caroline Road	2.06 acre	13575/128
41U/99	26 Caroline Road	1.15 acre	13575/131
41U/102	27 Caroline Road	1.16 acre	13575/137
41U/101	31 Caroline Road	1.38 acre	13575/134

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Moved that the Town vote to transfer to the Conservation Commission the care, custody, management and control of parcels as printed in your warrant.

SELECTMAN: **Cohen**
EXPLANATION: These parcels were acquired by the town through an auction; there were no bidders so they automatically reverted to town ownership.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: two-thirds
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 26 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 27. AMEND TOWN CODE TO ESTABLISH AN AUDIT COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton by inserting Chapter 3 therein, said Chapter to read as follows:

Chapter 3

AUDIT COMMITTEE

§ 3-1. Establishment of Audit Committee

§ 3-2. Role of Audit Committee

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§ 3-1. Establishment of Audit Committee

There is hereby established an Audit Committee consisting of five members. Such members shall include: one (1) current member from each of the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and School Committee, appointed as determined by the Chair of the respective board or committee; plus two (2) at-large members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The at-large members shall not be a member of another board or committee, or an officer, official or paid employee of the Town. All members of the Audit Committee shall have, at a minimum, a working familiarity with basic finance and accounting practices; appointments should be made to provide that at least two members of the Audit Committee be Certified Public Accountants or otherwise have accounting or related financial management expertise.

Audit Committee members appointed by the Board of Selectmen shall serve for a term of two (2) years, except that one (1) of the initial appointees shall serve for a term of three (3) years, thereby providing that one such member's term will expire on a annual basis. All other members shall serve a term of one (1) year. Any vacancy occurring in the Audit Committee shall be filled by the appropriate appointing authority for the balance of the unexpired term. Terms shall coincide with the fiscal year, i.e. effective July 1 and expiring June 30, to correspond with the period of time for which the town's audits are conducted.

At the first meeting after the start of each new fiscal year, the Audit Committee shall conduct an organizational meeting to elect from its members a chair, a vice-chair and a secretary.

§ 3-2. Role of Audit Committee

The Audit Committee shall serve as advisor to the Board of Selectmen with respect to the town's financial management systems and controls and annual audit. In addition, the Audit Committee shall make an annual report to the Town on matters within the scope of its jurisdiction. Specific duties shall include, but are not

limited to, the following:

(1) Make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on the selection of, and scope of services for, an independent auditor.

(2) Review the annual financial statements and management reports prepared by the independent auditor and make recommendations with respect thereto.

(3) Make recommendations for areas of operations where expanded scope audits or review of the internal controls may be appropriate.

(4) Review and make recommendations with respect to the Town's financial management practices and controls; through the Town Administrator, review with appropriate boards and departments opportunities to improve such practices and controls.

(5) Report to the Board of Selectmen on the status of recommendations the Committee and/or independent auditor has made during the preceding twelve months.

(6) Submit a summary of their work for the preceding calendar year for inclusion in the Town's Annual Report.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee

Moved that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton by inserting Chapter 3 therein, as printed in your warrant.

SELECTMAN: **Corona**
EXPLANATION: This by-law was first proposed by the Finance Committee, which worked closely with the Board of Selectmen in its development. The intent of the Audit Committee is to provide additional oversight with respect to the town's auditing process and the implementation of auditor recommendations.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 27 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 28. ESTABLISH CAPITAL PLANNING BY-LAW
To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton by inserting a new Chapter 6 therein, said Chapter to read as follows:

CHAPTER 6
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

§ 6-1. Purpose

§ 6-2. Role of Capital Planning Committee

§ 6-3. Capital Planning Process

§ 6-4. The Capital Budget

§ 6-1. PURPOSE

This by-law is created in furtherance of the provisions of §C6-6 of the Easton Home Rule Charter to provide additional information regarding the role of the Capital Planning Committee as well as the capital planning process.

§ 6-2. ROLE OF CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Capital Planning Committee (hereinafter "the Committee") is charged with the responsibility of planning and subsequently recommending to the Town Administrator a Capital Improvement Program identifying the Town's future capital projects, programs, improvements and acquisitions having a useful life of at least three (3) years and a cost of at least ten thousand dollars ($10,000), including requests for funds for a class of assets that exceeds $10,000.

The development and implementation of a Capital Improvement Program is essential to the sound and cost effective maintenance of the infrastructure and capital assets of the community. Towards this end, the committee is dedicated to accomplishing the following objectives:

- To review, evaluate, plan and coordinate capital improvements so as to promote a systematic, organized replacement and acquisition schedule;
- To promote timely planning and the efficient implementation of capital improvements;
- To promote wider community awareness regarding the planning of projects and to reduce the pressure to fund a project which has not been weighed against immediate and long-range community-wide needs;
- To annually present a report to the Town Administrator, said report to include a 5-Year (minimum) Capital Program, as well as a proposed one-year Capital Budget listing recommended projects in order of priority.

§ 6-3. CAPITAL PLANNING PROCESS

All officers, departments, boards and committees shall give to the Capital Planning Committee, by October 1 of each year and on a form prepared by it, information concerning all capital projects, programs, improvements and acquisitions anticipated as necessary during the next five (5) years; presentation of planned capital expenditures beyond this five year period is encouraged to the extent that such information is known. The Committee shall consider all such requests and, in doing so, may confer with any town officer, department or board or request additional data it feels it needs in order to fulfill its responsibilities.

The Committee shall, based on the information received by it, prepare and recommend to the Town Administrator a Capital Improvement Program (hereinafter "the Program") detailing the Committee's recommendations for the capital items to be funded, as well as the associated timing, for the ensuing five (5) year period. The Program is updated annually, with the first program year deleted and a new fifth program year added.

In evaluating and scheduling the requests of the operating departments, the Committee will use the following criteria, listed in their order of priority:

1. Imminent threat to the health and safety of citizens or property
2. Improvement of a capital asset to facilitate maintenance of operations, not to include ordinary maintenance; these are intended to be expenditures that will avoid costly replacement in the future
3. Requirement of state or federal law or regulation
4. Improvement of infrastructure
5. Improvement of productivity
6. Alleviation of an overburdened situation

The relationship of the project to other town projects and needs will also be considered in the review and prioritization.

Requests that can be funded from sources that will not impact the operating budget, and also do not necessitate an exclusion or override of Proposition 2 ½ (such as those funded from an enterprise account, conservation fund, grant or similar source) will be considered separately. Further, projects, acquisitions and other expenditures from the Community Preservation Act fund shall not be subject to the Capital Planning Process, although the CPA Committee is encouraged to present their projects to the Capital Planning Committee to facilitate coordination of efforts, as may be applicable.

The Capital Program and the Capital Budget (see below) will be finalized by the Town Administrator.

§ 6-4. THE CAPITAL BUDGET

Annually, the first year of the Capital Improvement Program shall be submitted to the Town Administrator as the recommended Capital Budget; the Town Administrator shall finalize the Capital Budget and submit it to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in accordance with § C6-6 of the Charter.

No Capital projects, programs, improvements or acquisitions, as defined in this by-law, shall be funded unless the item is included in the Capital Budget for the-then current year or determined by the Board of Selectmen to be of an emergency nature. This shall not preclude the funding of citizens' petitions for bonded items, subject to Town Meeting approval.

Or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Capital Planning Committee and Town Administrator

Moved that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton by inserting a new Chapter 6 therein, as per the handout provided to Town Meeting members as follows:

ARTICLE 28. ESTABLISH CAPITAL PLANNING BY-LAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton by inserting a new Chapter 6 therein, said Chapter to read as follows:

CHAPTER 6
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

§ 6-1. Purpose

§ 6-2. Role of Capital Planning Committee

§ 6-3. Capital Planning Process

§ 6-4. The Capital Budget

---

§ 6-1. PURPOSE

This by-law is created in furtherance of the provisions of §C6-6 of the Easton Home Rule Charter to provide additional information regarding the role of the Capital Planning Committee as well as the capital planning process.

§ 6-2. ROLE OF CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Capital Planning Committee (hereinafter "the Committee") is charged with the responsibility of planning and subsequently recommending to the Town Administrator a Capital Improvement Program identifying the Town's future capital projects, programs, improvements and acquisitions having a useful life of greater than (3) years and a cost of at least ten thousand dollars ($10,000), including request(s) for funds for a class of asset(s) that exceeds $10,000.

The development and implementation of a Capital Improvement Program is essential to the sound and cost effective maintenance of the infrastructure and capital assets of the community. Towards this end, the committee is dedicated to accomplishing the following objectives:

- *To review, evaluate, plan and coordinate capital improvements so as to promote a systematic, organized replacement and acquisition schedule;*
- *To promote timely planning and the efficient implementation of capital improvements;*
- *To promote wider community awareness regarding the planning of projects and to reduce the pressure to fund a project which has not been weighed against immediate and long-range community-wide needs;*
- *To annually present a report to the Town Administrator, said report to include a 5-Year (minimum) Capital Program, as well as a proposed one-year Capital Budget listing recommended projects in order of priority.*

§ 6-3. CAPITAL PLANNING PROCESS

All Easton officers, departments, boards, committees, citizens or group of citizens shall give to the Capital Planning Committee, by October 1 of each year and on a form prepared by it, information concerning all capital projects, programs, improvements and acquisitions anticipated as necessary during the next five (5) years; presentation of planned capital expenditures beyond this five year period is encouraged to the extent that such information is known. The Committee shall consider all such requests and, in doing so, may confer with any town officer, department or board or request additional data it feels it needs in order to fulfill its responsibilities.

The Committee shall, based on the information received by it, prepare and recommend to the Town Administrator a Capital Improvement Program (hereinafter "the Program") detailing the Committee's recommendations for the capital items to be funded, as well as the associated timing, for the ensuing five (5) year period. The Program is updated annually, and a new fifth program year added.

In evaluating and scheduling the requests of the operating departments, the Committee will use the following criteria, listed in their order of priority:

7. *Imminent threat to the health and safety of citizens or property*
8. *Requirement of state or federal law or regulation*
9. *Improvement of a capital asset to facilitate maintenance of operations, not to include ordinary maintenance; these are intended to be expenditures that will avoid costly replacement in the future*
10. *Improvement of infrastructure*
11. *Improvement of productivity*
12. *Alleviation of an overburdened situation*

The relationship of the project to other town projects and needs will also be considered in the review and prioritization.

Requests that can be funded from sources that will not impact the operating budget, and also do not necessitate an exclusion or override of Proposition 2 ½ (such as those funded from an enterprise account, conservation fund, grant or similar source) will be considered separately. Further, projects, acquisitions and other expenditures from the Community Preservation Act fund shall not be subject to the Capital Planning Process, although the CPA Committee is encouraged to present their projects to the Capital Planning Committee to facilitate coordination of efforts, as may be applicable.

The Capital Improvement Program will be finalized by the Town Administrator.

§ 6-4. THE CAPITAL BUDGET

Annually, the first year of the Capital Improvement Program shall be submitted to the Town Administrator as the recommended Capital Budget; the Town Administrator shall finalize the Capital Budget and submit it to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in accordance with § C6-6 of the Charter.

No Capital projects, programs, improvements or acquisitions, as defined in this by-law, shall be funded unless the item is included in the Capital Budget for the-then current year or determined by the Board of Selectmen to

be of an emergency nature. This shall not preclude the funding of citizens' petitions for bonded items, subject to Town Meeting approval.

Or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Capital Planning Committee and Town Administrator

SELECTMAN: **Haederle**
EXPLANATION: Presently there is no established process for the development of a capital plan or capital budget. This by-law seeks to establish such a process. It is one more step to improve our financial management systems. A handout was made available as you came in which is the version of the by-law that has the support of the Selectmen, Capital Planning Committee and Finance Committee. It is that version that is recommended to you this evening.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 28 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 29. APPROPRIATION OF CHAPTER 90 FUNDS
To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds received from the state pursuant to Chapter 291B of the Acts of 2004 the sum of $415,183.00 for the construction, reconstruction or improvement of public roads and sidewalks, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of said funds, and to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Moved that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds received from the state pursuant to Chapter 291B of the Acts of 2004 the sum of $415,183.00 for the construction, reconstruction or improvement of public roads and sidewalks, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of said funds.

SELECTMAN: **Less**
EXPLANATION: This is an annual vote to appropriate the so-called Chapter 90 funds.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 29 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 30. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate and transfer from available funds, the amount of $4,000 to fund a contract for FY 2006 for services provided to sexual assault survivors and their families, as well as services associated with the prevention of sexual assaults and other services associated therewith, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into said contract, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Moved that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the amount of $4,000 to fund a contract for FY 2006 for services provided to sexual assault survivors and their families, as well as services associated with the prevention of sexual assaults and other services associated therewith, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into said contract.

SELECTMAN: **King**

EXPLANATION: We have, for many years, contributed funds to the Plymouth County Rape Crisis center through a line item in the budget. However, authorizing such a contribution through an article, and requiring a contract for services, is a more appropriate means of providing a contribution to a private entity.

VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 30 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 31. PAYMENT OF BILLS FROM PRIOR FISCAL YEAR

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the cost of bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Deputy Moderator Michael Sites stood in for Moderator Dailey during the discussion and vote on this Article.

Moved that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from free cash the sum of $570 to pay the cost of an invoice from Kevin E. Paicos for preparation for and participation in depositions, hearing or trials, with respect to litigation involving the Town of Easton, said bill having been incurred in a prior fiscal year.

SELECTMAN: **Corona**
EXPLANATION: In December 2003, the then-Board of Selectmen voted to compensate Mr. Paicos at $120 per hour for his time spent to date assisting the town with respect to three matters of litigation, and to pay for his ongoing participation at the same rate. 4.75 of these hours were worked in fiscal year 2003, and thus require approval by Town Meeting. This is a contractual obligation of the town and you are urged to approve this article.

VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Four-fifths
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 31 TOWN MEETING ACTION: DECLARED 4/5 MAJORITY VOTE BY DEPUTY MODERATOR SITES. (NAYS – 23)

Moderator Dailey returned to the Podium after the vote was taken.

ARTICLE 32. FUNDING FOR REQUIRED OVERTIME PAYMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money needed to fund overtime payments that should have been paid in accordance with the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act to employees that worked in excess of 40 hours per week but were not compensated at the rate of time and one-half as required by said Act; or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from free cash the sum of $4,520 to fund overtime payments that should have been paid in accordance with the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act to employees that worked in excess of 40 hours per week but were not compensated at the rate of time and one-half as required by said Act.

SELECTMAN: **Cohen**
EXPLANATION: It has come to our attention that there are employees of the municipality that work for both the town and school departments. As these are separate payroll systems, such situations were not readily apparent. On occasion, these employees worked in excess of a total of 40 hours per week, thus triggering the federal fair labor standards act requirement that overtime be paid. In accordance with this law, we must look back over a two year period and make the necessary overtime payments. If this situation is not remedied, now that the oversight has

come to our attention, we have the potential to be liable for all earned overtime as well as damages for our failure to make restitution.

VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 32 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 33. FY 2006 CAPITAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by borrowing, or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the purpose of meeting the capital budget needs of the Town for Fiscal Year 2006 or take any other action relative thereto.
(See Budget to be distributed at Town Meeting)

Submitted by Capital Planning Committee/Town Administrator

Moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $861,000 and that to meet this appropriation, $50,172 shall be transferred from Free Cash, $85,828 shall be transferred from the Sale of Real Estate Account, $175,000 shall be transferred from water surplus, and further that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow $550,000 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44 and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out these projects for the purposes listed below:

School:		
	Center School parking lot	$28,000
	Parkview School parking lot	$18,000
DPW:		
	Replace 1986 Holder sidewalk plow w/ attachments	$90,000
Water Division:		
	VFD Motor Controls	$30,000
	Inspect Water Tanks	$10,000
	Replace Backhoe	$80,000
	Replace Pickup Truck	$20,000
	Replace Utility Truck w/ Plow	$35,000
	Repaint Water Tank	$550,000
		$861,000

SELECTMAN: **Haederle**
EXPLANATION: The capital expenditures recommended for funding by the Capital Planning Committee for fiscal year 2006 total approximately $1.8 million, far in excess of our funding capacity. The items requested for funding this evening reflect a pared-down version of those priorities balanced with the reality of severely limited available funds. Our continued inability to adequately fund our capital needs only defers those needs, and in many cases will ultimately increase the cost to taxpayers and/or result in emergency situations. We hope to submit additional requests for capital funding at a subsequent Special Town Meeting, depending upon the availability of funds.

VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: two thirds
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 33 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 34. APPROPRIATION OF MATCHING FUNDS FOR FIRE ENGINE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be used to match federal funds received to purchase a fire engine or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Moved that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from free cash the sum of $25,000 to be used to match federal funds received to purchase a fire engine.

SELECTMAN: **Less**

EXPLANATION: The Fire Department was awarded a $250,000 federal grant for a fire truck which stipulates that the Town must provide 10% of the grant amount, or $25,000. This vehicle is badly needed and will replace a 1987 vehicle that has been out of service since January 2001 as well as the 1981 Mack engine, which currently serves as our reserve unit.

VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority

SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 34 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 35. ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town, as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as follows:

Board of Selectmen, each member	$1,800
Board of Health, each member	$1,000
Board of Assessors, each member	$1,800
Moderator	$ 100

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

Moved that the Town vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town, as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as printed in your warrant.

SELECTMAN: **King**

EXPLANATION: This is an annual article, required by statute, to set the salary levels for all compensated elected officials.

VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Simple majority

SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 35 TOWN MEETING ACTION: VOTED.

ARTICLE 36. FY 2006 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer, such sums as may be necessary to defray the Town charges for the ensuing Fiscal Year including the salaries of the several elected and appointed officers of the Town, and make appropriations for same, or take any other action relative thereto.
(See Budget to be distributed at Town Meeting).

Submitted by Town Administrator

Moved that the Town appropriate the sum of $50,276,653 of which $46,748,962 shall be raised by taxation, $85,828 shall be transferred from Free Cash, $550,000 shall be transferred from the Stabilization Fund, $994 shall be transferred from the Pension Reserve Fund, $108,131 shall be transferred from the Conservation Fund, $22,500 shall be transferred from the Conservation Commission Chapter 227 Filing Fee Account, $7,500 shall be transferred from

the Wetlands Protection fund, $30,000 shall be transferred from the Board of Health Food Inspection Services/Education Account, and $2,722,738 shall be transferred from water receipts, all to meet the Town charges, including salaries and expenses for the fiscal year 2006 as follows:

FD-DPT	*DEPARTMENT NAME*	*TOTAL*
01-003	*SELECTMEN*	*227,353*
01-007	*TOWN COUNSEL*	*200,000*
01-011	*FINANCE COMMITTEE*	*3,000*
01-013	*RESERVE FUND*	*25,000*
01-025	*ACCOUNTANT*	*158,018*
01-029	*ASSESSORS*	*186,970*
01-033	*TOWN COLLECTOR/TREASURER*	*264,237*
01-039	*TOWN CLERK*	*198,498*
01-051	*DATA PROCESSING*	*214,877*
01-101	*POLICE*	*3,000,869*
01-103	*FIRE*	*2,271,251*
01-104	*AMBULANCE*	*357,192*
01-105	*FIRE ALARM*	*21,792*
01-110	*LAND USE & PERMITTING*	*439,718*
01-225	*SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL*	*431,833*
01-300	*DPW ADMINISTRATION*	*2,085,906*
01-501	*BOARD OF HEALTH*	*209,529*
01-531	*COUNCIL ON AGING*	*88,421*
01-551	*VETERANS DEPARTMENT*	*208,859*
01-600	*RECREATION DEPARTMENT*	*15,000*
01-625	*LIBRARY*	*386,092*
01-700	*MATURING DEBT & INTEREST*	*4,429,748*
01-750	*EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & INSURANCE*	*8,236,240*
01-760	*OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT*	*100,175*
61-500	*WATER DIVISION*	*2,174,985*
	SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	*24,341,090*
	TOTAL FY 2006 BUDGET	*50,276,653*

SELECTMAN: **Corona**
EXPLANATION: This is the annual operating budget for fiscal 2006.
VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS: Two-thirds
SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION: Recommended
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended

ARTICLE 36 TOWN MEETING ACTION: *The following line items were held for further discussion: Selectmen, Town Counsel, Reserve Fund, Accountant, Assessors, Town Collector/Treasurer, Town Clerk, Data*

Processing, Ambulance, Land Use & Permitting, Southeastern Regional School, Council on Aging, Veterans Department, Recreation Department, Water Division, School Department.

The following unheld line items were then voted as presented: Finance Committee, Police, Fire, Fire Alarm, DPW Administration, Board of Health, Library, Maturing Debt & Interest, Employee Benefits & Insurance, Other General Government.

After discussion and votes in the original amounts moved, the following items were voted: Selectmen, Town Counsel, Reserve Fund, Accountant.
It was then moved and voted to take the Council on Aging and Recreation line items out of order. The original amounts were then voted. All further held items held by Patrick Goodman were then lifted except the Regional School.

Lengthy discussion was then held on the Southeastern Regional School line item. The amount of $431,833 which is a reduction of the amount requested from the School was eventually voted.

The Main Motion in the amount of $50,276,653 was a ***UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

The Annual Town Meeting was DISSOLVED at 10:50 p.m. Total Voters Present – 262.

A true record. Attest: ***Janet Andrus Linehan****, Town Clerk of Easton*

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof one at each meeting house and post office and one at the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium and one at the Town Offices, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 2nd day of May the year Two Thousand Five.

Colleen A. Corona, Chair
John S. Haederle, Clerk
Charles P. King
Colleen A. Less
Irwin M. Cohen
EASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Easton, Mass. May 9, 2005
By virtue hereof and as within directed, I have this day posted attested copies of this Warrant.

Scot Douglas, Constable of Easton

A true copy. Attest:
Janet Andrus Linehan
Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk of Easton

TOWN OF EASTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton in the County of Bristol:
GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Easton qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Oliver Ames High School Gymnasium in said Easton on Monday, the 26th day of September, next, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act upon the following articles:

Special Town Meeting
Monday, September 26, 2005
Oliver Ames High School Gymnasium

Moderator Richard C. Dailey called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with quorum present.

The following non-voters were voted admittance to the hall: DEPARTMENT HEADS: (Per Charter Section 2-4 Shall Attend Town Meeting) Martha L. White, Town Administrator; Janet Andrus Linehan, Town Clerk; Anne Carney, Assistant Assessor; Wendy V. Nightingale, Town Accountant; Teresa DeSilva, Treasurer/Collector; William Simmons, School Superintendent; Wade Saucier, Health Director; Marc Rousseau, Planner; Michael Deltano, Information Systems Manager; D. Mark Trivett, Building Inspector; John J. Marsh, Water Superintendent. OTHER TOWN EMPLOYEES: Michael Green, Ed. D., Assistant to Superintendent; Marilyn Gordon, School Business Manager; Annalee Bundy, Library Director; Eric Davis, Data Processing; Robert Dunn, Land Use Engineer. OTHERS: Elaine Lucas, Brackett & Lucas, Town Counsel; James J. Hager, Supt. Southeastern Regional School District. MEDIA: Enterprise: Vicki Downing, Mike Melanson; Easton Journal: Josh Press, Bill Gouveia; Media One: Robyn Souza. REPRESENTATIVES: Congressman Stephen Lynch and representative Bob Fowkes; State Senators Robert Creedon and Brian Joyce; State Representatives Christine Canavan, Geraldine Creedon and David Flynn. MICROPHONE CARRIERS: Andrew King, Kasara Martin. REQUESTING ADMITTANCE FOR 9/26/05: Brad Hanley, Charles Paris, Ted Ahern re 33 Bay Road Article; Paul Gaurill, Brockton re Dean Street Article; Fred Ames re Library Articles; Eric Larson, Library Project Manager; Sandra Brock, Library Project Civil Engineer; Doug Prentiss, Library Project Traffic Engineer; Philip Bowers, 19 Barrows Street.

Congressman Stephen Lynch addressed the audience. He spoke of federal legislation relating to the local level and on Iraq.

ARTICLE 1. APPROPRIATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to supplement the funds appropriated under Article 36 of the May 16, 2005 Annual Town Meeting, adjourned to June 6, 2005, for the operating budget of the Southeastern Regional School, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 1. CORONA moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $33,877 to supplement the funds appropriated under Article 36 of the May 16, 2005 Annual Town Meeting, adjourned to June 6, 2005, for the operating budget of the Southeastern Regional School.

EXPLANATION:
At the Annual Town Meeting, we appropriated an amount equal to the prior year's appropriation, rather than the amount requested by the Regional School Committee, somewhat in protest of the increased budgeted amount approved by that Board. We anticipated that we would ultimately have to pay the full assessment, and budgeted for the balance of $46,532. This balance is offset by a $12,655 reduction in the assessment to the Town due to the regional school receiving additional transportation money.

Vote required to pass:	Simple majority
Selectmen:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	Recommend

ARTICLE 1 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 2. FUNDING FOR CONTRACT FOR CLERICAL UNION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money needed to fund the incremental cost items contained in any collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Southeastern Public Employees Association/Clerical Unit if such agreement is negotiated and mutually ratified prior to Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 2. HAEDERLE moved that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from free cash the sum of $25,000 to fund the incremental cost items contained in a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Southeastern Public Employees Association/Clerical Unit.

EXPLANATION:
These funds are for the clerical union's cost of living raise for FY 05, comparable to all other town union contracts, which will be paid retroactively. The COLA was funded in

the FY05 budget, but as the contract was not settled in that fiscal year, the money was returned to free cash. Accordingly, the funding source for this article is free cash.

Vote required to pass: simple majority

Selectmen: Recommend
Finance Committee: Recommend

ARTICLE 2 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 3. RE-APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION STUDIES

To see if the Town will vote to re-appropriate funds authorized under Article 21 of the November 17, 2003 Special Town Meeting, said funds having been appropriated to pay for a wage and classification study of the Non-Union Employees of the Town, to allow the balance of such funds to be used for wage studies for the Clerical and DPW union groups, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 3. LESS moved that the Town vote to re-appropriate funds authorized under Article 21 of the November 17, 2003 Special Town Meeting, said funds having been appropriated to pay for a wage and classification study of the Non-Union Employees of the Town, to allow the balance of such funds to be used for wage studies for the Clerical and DPW union groups.

EXPLANATION:
$25,000 was appropriated for the non-union wage study, whereas the cost of that study is $10,325. This article proposes to use the balance of $14,675 for wage studies for the clerical and DPW unions. The clerical study will be comprehensive, involving development of new job descriptions and comparative analysis of "job worth" between positions within the union and other positions in Easton's government as well as comparable positions in other communities. The DPW study will just involve comparisons to similar positions in other communities, as a comprehensive study was done just 5 years ago. It is anticipated that the two studies can be completed within the available $14,675.

Vote required to pass: simple majority
Selectmen: Recommend
Finance Committee: Recommend
Human Resources Board: Recommend

ARTICLE 3 TOWN MEETING ACTION: VOTED.

ARTICLE 4. SUPPLEMENT COUNCIL ON AGING BUDGET FOR EXPENDITURES MADE FOR RETIREMENT ENTITLEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement the budget of the FY 2006 Office of the Council on Aging, specifically line item 01-531-01-5117, said supplemental funds needed due to expenditures made to fund the cost of sick leave and vacation leave buy-backs to which a retiree from that department was entitled, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 4. KING moved that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from free cash the sum of $9,417 to supplement the FY 2006 budget of the Office of the Council on Aging, as printed in your warrant.

EXPLANATION:
A retiree from the Council on Aging department was entitled to both vacation and sick leave buy-back at the time of her retirement. The total cost of her entitlements is $9,417.00.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	Recommend

ARTICLE 4 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 5. RE-APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO USE AS MATCH FOR SMART GROWTH GRANT PROGRAM

To see if the Town will vote to re-appropriate funds authorized under Article 8 of the January 23, 1995 Special Town Meeting, said funds originally appropriated to pay for a Growth Management Study, to allow such funds to be used as the required matching funds for a grant application to the Smart Growth Technical Assistance grant program, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 5. COHEN moved that the Town vote to re-appropriate funds authorized under Article 8 of the January 23, 1995 Special Town Meeting, said funds originally appropriated to pay for a Growth Management Study, to allow such funds to be used as the required matching funds for a grant application to the Smart Growth Technical Assistance grant program.

EXPLANATION:

A balance of $8,506.05 remains from the amount appropriated for the Growth Management Study; this article proposes to re-appropriate those funds so that they may be used to fulfill the local match requirement for the Smart Growth grant application. This grant will fund a comprehensive review of the town's land development laws and regulations.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	Recommend
Planning and Zoning Board:	Recommend

ARTICLE 5 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 6. ACCEPTANCE OF EASEMENT FROM OAKES AMES MEMORIAL HALL

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept as a gift an easement from the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall Association, or similar entity, to facilitate the use of their existing driveway for access and egress for the Ames Free Library/Easton's Public Library as shown on a plan entitled "Access Easement Oakes Ames Hall Easton, Massachusetts", dated 9/8/05, Plan prepared by Judith Nitsch Engineering, Inc., which plan is available for review at the Office of the Town Administrator, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 6. CORONA moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept as a gift an easement from the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall Association, or similar entity, to facilitate the use of their existing driveway for access and egress for the Ames Free Library/ Easton's Public Library as printed in your warrant.

EXPLANATION:
The library site design calls for the project to utilize the driveway at the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall rather than the previously proposed Lincoln Street driveway. Representatives from the Library have a presentation to explain the proposal.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Recommend
Library Board of Directors:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	No Action Taken

Donna Richman gave a presentation for the library board. Mr. Paul Rohr, 11 Lincoln Street, gave a presentation for the Citizens for a Safe Library. Town Administrator Martha White responded to some of the issues brought forward in Mr. Rohr's presentation. Ms. White yielded to Police Chief Thomas Kominksy to

address the fatal accidents issue and to Mr. Douglas Prentiss, traffic engineer for the Library project as to what is being suggested for traffic improvements and safety. Sandra Brock answered several questions regarding the site.

There was a motion for a secret ballot. More than the required number stood in favor.

The following counters were duly sworn by Town Clerk Janet Linehan: Walter Messcher, Brian Hoffman, Michael Boyle, Melanie DeWare, Paul Rohr, Alice McCarthy, Kathy Evans, Norton Aronson.

During the secret ballot count, discussion and voting continued on other articles. The results of these articles will be listed in numerical order in this report.

ARTICLE 6 TOWN MEETING ACTION: Secret Ballot Count – Yes 116, No 92. Article Voted.

ARTICLE 7. ACCEPTANCE OF LEASE OF LAND FROM THE AMES FREE LIBRARY

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and enter into a 99-year lease of land from the Ames Free Library of Easton, Inc., said lease having an area of 17,495 square feet more or less and being part of the land on which the addition to the Ames Free Library is to be constructed as depicted on a plan entitled "Lease Area Sketch Plan Ames Free Library Easton, Massachusetts" dated June 12, 2000, Plan prepared by Welch Associates Land Surveyors, Inc. 353 West Center Street West Bridgewater, MA, which plan is available for review at the Office of the Town Administrator, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 7. HAEDERLE moved to dismiss Article 7.

EXPLANATION:
Authorization for this lease was granted under Article 14 of the June 12, 2000 Town Meeting.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Dismissal

ARTICLE 7 TOWN MEETING ACTION: DISMISSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 8. LIBRARY ACCESS ROAD FUNDING

To see if the Town will vote to amend their vote under Article 12 of the May 20, 2002 Annual Town Meeting, which vote provided borrowing authorization for the design, engineering, materials, construction and other costs associated with the installation of the so-called library access road and associated work, which access road was specified as being from Lincoln Street to the Ames Free Library/Easton's Public Library, to provide borrowing authorization for the same purpose, but without specificity as to the access road location, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 8. LESS moved that the Town vote to amend the vote passed under Article 12 of the warrant for the May 20, 2002 annual town meeting by deleting the phrase "said access road to be constructed from Lincoln Street to the Ames Free Library, Easton's Public Library, in accordance with plans prepared by Schwartz/Silver Architects, Inc. and/or Judith Nitsch Engineering, Inc.," so that said vote shall read as follows: "that $400,000 is appropriated for design, engineering, materials, construction and other costs associated with the installation of the so-called library access road and associated work, said construction subject to the issuance of all necessary state and local permits; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow $400,000 and issue bonds or notes therefore under Chapter 44 of the General Laws."

EXPLANATION:
To facilitate use of the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall driveway for the library project, the authorization for this borrowing needs to be amended so it does not specify the access as being from Lincoln Street.

Vote required to pass:	two-thirds
Selectmen:	Recommend
Library Board of Directors:	Recommend

A motion was made and passed to AMEND Article 8 by adding the words "to Barrows Street" after so-called library access road. Another motion was made to RESCIND the amendment and was VOTED.

ARTICLE 8 TOWN MEETING ACTION: Standing Count - 165 Yes, 64 No. Voted.

There was a motion to RECONSIDER Article 8. NOT A VOTE. There was a motion to RECONSIDER Article 6. NOT A VOTE.

ARTICLE 9. RESCISSION OF BORROWING AUTHORIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the borrowing authorized under Article 50 of the May 17, 2004 Annual Town Meeting, said funding originally appropriated to fund the acquisition of land north of Moreau Hall but being no longer needed as the Town will not be acquiring the land, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 9. KING moved that the Town vote to rescind the borrowing authorized under Article 50 of the May 17, 2004 Annual Town Meeting, said borrowing having been intended to fund the acquisition of land north of Moreau Hall but being no longer needed as the Town will not be acquiring the land.

EXPLANATION:
This is a housekeeping matter to eliminate this borrowing authorization, which was for $350,000.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	Recommend

ARTICLE 9 TOWN MEETING ACTION: VOTED.

ARTICLE 10. CAPITAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by borrowing, or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the purpose of meeting the capital budget needs of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.
(See Budget to be distributed at Town Meeting)

Submitted by Capital Planning Committee/Town Administrator

ARTICLE 10. COHEN moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $320,950 and that to meet this appropriation, $104,260 shall be transferred from Free Cash, $63,292 shall be transferred from the Sale of Real Estate Account, and $153,398 shall be transferred from the overlay surplus account and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out these projects for the purposes listed below:

Police	2 cruisers	$58,000
Building & Grounds	Stump Grinder	$35,000
Data Processing	Document Management	$35,000
Highway	2-ton dump truck with sander and plow	$50,000
Police/Fire Stations	Replace boiler	$40,000
	Replace gutters	$20,000

Schools	Replace Science and Social Studies textbooks	$82,950
		$320,950

EXPLANATION:
The capital expenditures recommended for funding by the Capital Planning Committee for fiscal year 2006 total approximately $1.8 million, far in excess of our funding capacity. At the last Annual Town Meeting we funded capital items totaling $861,000. This request for funding, while still insufficient given the vast unmet needs, helps address those that are most urgent. Our continued inability to adequately fund our capital needs only defers those needs, and in many cases will ultimately increase the cost to taxpayers and/or result in emergency situations.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	Recommend

During discussion of Article 10, Deputy Moderator Michael Sites took over the podium during the motion section.

ARTICLE 10 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 11. ACQUISITION OF LAND ON BAY ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to ratify the Board of Selectmen's vote of June 13, 2005 exercising the right of first refusal on an option to purchase, under Mass. General Laws Chapter 61, section 8, the property located on Bay Road identified on Assessors' Map R3 as Lot 2, containing 13.4 acres, more or less owned by Charles C. Parris and Nancy N. Daniels, Trustees of Daniels Realty Trust, being described in a deed recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds at Book 1669, Page 487, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen, acting as Water Commissioners, to acquire such property on behalf of the Town for water supply purposes, and to take all actions necessary to accomplish said purchase, and further to raise and appropriate, appropriate by borrowing, or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund such acquisition, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 11. CORONA moved that the Board of Selectmen's vote of June 13, 2005 exercising the right of first refusal on an option to purchase, under G.L. c.61, §8, the property located on Bay Road identified on the Assessors' Map R3 as Lot 2, containing 13.4 acres, more or less, owned by Charles C. Parris and Nancy N. Daniels, Trustees of Daniels Realty Trust, being described in a deed recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds at Book 1669, Page 487, is

hereby ratified; and further, that the Board of Selectmen, acting as Water Commissioners, is authorized to acquire such property on behalf of the Town for water supply purposes and to take all actions necessary to accomplish said purchase; and further that $700,000 is appropriated for such purchase, including costs incidental and related thereto; and further that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow $700,000 under G.L. c.44 or any other enabling authority, with the intent that, although any bonds or notes issued hereunder shall be general obligations of the Town, the debt service on any such bonds or notes will be paid from water revenues.

EXPLANATION:
This parcel surrounds the water tank on Bay Road, one of the highest elevations in town. This land acquisition is intended to accomplish two objectives – to prevent development in close proximity to the existing tank, since the two land uses are incompatible, and to acquire land for development of a future water tank. The funding source will be by borrowing with water revenues used to repay the bonds.

Vote required to pass:	two-thirds
Selectmen:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	Recommend

ARTICLE 11 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 12. ACQUISITION OF LAND ON DEAN STREET

To see if the Town will vote to ratify the Board of Selectmen's vote of March 28, 2005 exercising the right of first refusal on an option to purchase, under Mass. Gen. Laws, c. 61, §8, the property located on Dean Street identified on Assessors' Map R21 as Lot 4, containing 40.5 acres, more or less owned by the Schofield Trust, being described in a deed recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds at Book 7279, Page 217, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire such property, or a portion thereof, on behalf of the Town, under the Community Preservation Act (Mass. Gen. Laws, c. 44B) for the purpose of the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space, and that the Town appropriate a sum of money for said purpose including other costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet said appropriation, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow a sum of money and to issue any bonds or notes which may be necessary for that purpose, as authorized by Mass. Gen. Laws, c. 44B, §11, or any other enabling legislation for a period not to exceed 20 years, or, in the alternative, to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund said acquisition, and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all actions necessary to accomplish said purpose including, but not limited to, the granting of a Conservation Restriction on said property, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 12. HAEDERLE moved that the Board of Selectmen's vote of March 28, 2005 exercising the right of first refusal on an option to purchase, under G.L. c.61, §8, the property located on Dean Street identified on Assessors' Map R21 as Lot 4, containing 40.5 acres, more or less, owned by the Schofield Trust, being described in a deed recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds at Book 7279, Page 217, is hereby ratified; and further that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to acquire such property, or a portion thereof, on behalf of the Town, under the Community Preservation Act (G.L. c.44B) for the purpose of the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space, and that said Board is further authorized to take all actions necessary to accomplish said purchase including, but not limited to, the granting of a Conservation Restriction on said property; and further that $1,750,000 is appropriated for such purchase, including costs incidental and related thereto; and further that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow up to $1,750,000 under G.L. c.44 and G.L. c.44B or any other enabling authority, with the intent that, although any bonds or notes issued hereunder shall be general obligations of the Town, the debt service on any such bonds or notes will be paid from annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund.

EXPLANATION:
This article, representing the CPA Committee's first land acquisition proposal, recommends that the town acquire a key piece of land on Dean Street. Patricia Hunt, Chair of the CPA Committee, would like to make a presentation to explain this proposed land acquisition.

Vote required to pass:	two-thirds
Selectmen:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	Recommend
CPA Committee	Recommend
Conservation Commission:	Recommend

ARTICLE 12 TOWN MEETING ACTION: Standing Count: 160 Yes, 54 No. Article Voted.

A motion to reconsider Article 12 was Not a Vote.

ARTICLE 13. REQUEST TO ALLOW MODIFICATION TO PRESIDENTIAL PATH SUBDIVISION

To see if the Town will vote to assent to an application to the Planning and Zoning Board for a modification of the subdivision known as Presidential Path and the associated Residential Compound Special Permit, both approved by the Planning and Zoning Board on November 28, 2001, the Town being the owner of one of the lots within said subdivision and therefore its assent to the application for modification being required as per MGL Chapter 41, §81W and as a property owner subject to the Special Permit under

MGL Chapter 40A §9; said modifications are intended to allow the construction of an extension to Reagan Road within said Presidential Path subdivision to facilitate the creation of three lots, two of which would be developed as single family residences and the third of which would be gifted to the Town of Easton, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 13. LESS moved to dismiss Article 13.

EXPLANATION:
The proponent of the modification to the subdivision withdrew his proposal effective September 21, 2005. He purportedly submitted a different proposal today, however we have not had an opportunity to review that proposal, and therefore ask that you dismiss this article.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Dismissal
Finance Committee:	Dismissal

ARTICLE 13 TOWN MEETING ACTION: DISMISSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 14. AUTHORIZATION FOR EMINENT DOMAIN FOR PARCEL OFF REAGAN ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take by eminent domain, pursuant to MGL Chapter 79 and Chapter 40, or any other applicable law thereto enabling, for water protection purposes, any and all interests in certain real property shown on the Town of Easton Assessors' Map number U28 as Lot 3 containing 6.7 acres more or less, located off of Reagan Road, said property to be under the jurisdiction and control of the Board of Selectmen and, further to raise and appropriate, appropriate by borrowing or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money for said taking, and further that the damages paid for the interests to be taken shall be in accordance with an appraisal of said property, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 14. KING moved to dismiss Article 14.

EXPLANATION:
While this property is of interest to the Water Division due to its close proximity to one of the town's wells, the Selectmen, along with the DPW Director, recommend that we do not pursue an eminent domain taking at this time.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Dismiss

Finance Committee: Dismiss

ARTICLE 14 TOWN MEETING ACTION: DISMISSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 15. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT OF LAND

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept the gift of a parcel of land located at the corner of Bay Road and Depot Street, said land to be used to facilitate the re-alignment of Bay Road as part of the 5-Corners Intersection Improvement Project, said parcel of land having an area of 10,254 square feet more or less and being depicted on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Easton Massachusetts Prepared for: GB New England 2, LLC, Prepared by: Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. dated May 19, 2005"; said plan having been endorsed by the Easton Planning and Zoning Board on July 13, 2005 and to be recorded at the Bristol County Registry of Deeds, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 15. COHEN moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept the gift of a parcel of land located at the corner of Bay Road and Depot Street, said land to be used to facilitate the re-alignment of Bay Road as part of the 5-Corners Intersection Improvement Project, as printed in your warrant.

EXPLANATION:
As part of the 5-corners improvement project, our engineers have recommended a re-alignment of Bay Road such that it meets Depot Street not at an acute angle as is the case now, but rather at a right angle and northerly of the current intersection point. This is just a conceptual plan at this point, as the final engineering has not been completed, but this is expected to produce considerable safety and traffic flow improvements. The gift of land proposed in this article is necessary to accomplish this realignment.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	Recommend

ARTICLE 15 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 16. GRANTING EASEMENT TO MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an easement to Massachusetts Electric to construct, reconstruct, repair, maintain, operate and patrol, for

the transmission of high and low voltage electric current and for the transmission of intelligence and telephone use, lines to consist of but not be limited to twelve poles (which may be erected at different times) with wires and cables installed thereon, and all necessary foundations, anchors, buys, braces, fittings, equipment and appurtenances over, across, under and upon land of the Town of Easton located on the southeasterly side of Red Mill Road to originate from Pole P13, then proceed in a southeasterly by southerly direction over land of the Town of Easton as described in an easement document to be recorded at the Bristol County Registry of Deeds and as shown on a plan marked Exhibit A attached thereto, which documents are available for review at the Office of the Town Administrator, the purpose of said easement being to facilitate delivery of electrical service to a new Water Division pumping station or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 16. CORONA moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an easement to Massachusetts Electric as printed in your warrant.

EXPLANATION:
This easement is needed to facilitate delivery of electrical service to a new Water Division pumping station located within the town-owned land behind Red Mill Road.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	Recommend

ARTICLE 16 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 17. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR INCREASED FUEL COSTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying for increased fuel costs for vehicle and heating fuels or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 17. HAEDERLE moved that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of $75,000 the purpose of paying for increased fuel costs for vehicle and heating fuels.

EXPLANATION:
The increases in fuel costs, both for heating and vehicle needs, are well known. This intent of this article is to at least partly respond to those increases. Last year's expenditures for vehicle and heating fuels totaled approximately $680,000 with approximately 2/3 of the cost attributable to the schools and 1/3 attributable to the town. If we were to apply just a 10% inflation factor to justify the funding requested in this

article, that would suggest an appropriation of $68,000. But we can be reasonably certain that 10% will not be sufficient, so we've recommended that $75,000 be appropriated. Again, this is intended to mitigate the impact of rising fuel costs, not necessarily to fully fund the anticipated cost increases. The Town Accountant will monitor expenses from already appropriated funds to be sure they are properly expended before departments are authorized to access these funds. She will attribute $50,000 to the school department and $25,000 to the town in accordance with last year's spending trends.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	Not Recommended

ARTICLE 17 TOWN MEETING ACTION: VOTED.

ARTICLE 18. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be placed in the Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 18. LESS moved that the Town vote appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of $550,000 to be placed in the Stabilization Fund.

EXPLANATION:
This is the amount of funds that was drawn from the Stabilization Fund to balance the FY 2006 operating budget. It was always our intent to replenish the Stabilization Fund if possible after certification of free cash.

Vote required to pass:	two-thirds
Selectmen:	Recommend
Finance Committee:	Recommend

ARTICLE 18 TOWN MEETING ACTION: UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 19. CHANGING REQUIREMENT FOR TOWN MEETING QUORUM

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 44, Section 44-5 of the Code of the Town of Easton to ready as follows:

§ 44-5 Quorum

A. At a Special Meeting of the town, not less than 100 registered voters shall constitute a quorum.

B. At an annual Town Meeting of the town, there shall be no quorum requirement

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 19. KING moved that the Town vote to amend Chapter 44, Section 44-5 of the Code of the Town of Easton to ready as follows:

§ 44-5 Quorum

C. At a Special Meeting of the town, not less than 100 registered voters shall constitute a quorum.

D. At an annual Town Meeting of the town, there shall be no quorum requirement

EXPLANATION:
We have often been challenged to achieve a quorum at both annual and special town meetings. This proposal suggests that there be no quorum requirement for the Annual Town Meetings. Other communities that have eliminated quorum requirements have consistently found that attendance actually increases. A quorum of 100 is proposed for Special Town Meetings to provide opportunity for balanced debate in the event that such a meeting is called by citizen petition.

Vote required to pass: simple majority
Selectmen: Recommend

A motion to AMEND Section B to read: "At an annual Town Meeting of the town, not less than 100 registered voters shall constitute a quorum" was VOTED.

ARTICLE 19 TOWN MEETING ACTION: Main Motion as Amended – VOTED.

ARTICLE 20. CITIZEN PETITION

To see if the Town will vote to add a new Section 3 to Article 1, General Provisions, of the Town's Bylaws, as follows: "1-3 Town Office Hours. The Town Office shall be open, except for holidays recognized by agreement(s) with the bargaining group(s) representing those employed in the Town Office, on Monday and Tuesday eight-thirty AM to four-thirty PM, Wednesday eight-thirty AM to eight-thirty PM, Thursday eight-thirty AM to four-thirty PM, and Friday eight-thirty AM to twelve-thirty PM."

Submitted by Citizen Petition

ARTICLE 20. Patrick Goodman, standing in for Petitioner Robert Hicks, AMENDED the Warrant Article to read: To see if the Town will vote to add a new Section 3 to Article 1, General Provisions, of the Town's Bylaws, as follows: "1-3 Town Office Hours. The Town Office shall be open, except for holidays recognized by agreement(s) with the bargaining group(s) representing those

employed in the Town Office, on Monday eight-thirty AM to seven-thirty PM, Tuesday through Thursday eight-thirty AM to four-thirty PM each day, and Friday eight-thirty AM to twelve-thirty PM.

Vote required to pass:	simple majority
Selectmen:	Not Recommend (This vote was on the original petition. The Selectmen did not vote on the amended article.)
Finance Committee	No Action
Human Resources Board:	Not Recommend

ARTICLE 20 TOWN MEETING ACTION: Standing Count – 94 Yes, 70 No. Amended Article Voted.

ARTICLE 21.
To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

At 11:35 p.m. it was VOTED to DISSOLVE the SpecialTown Meeting. Total voters present – 293.

A true record. Attest: *Janet Andrus Linehan*, CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof one at each meeting house and post office and one at the Oliver Ames High School Gymnasium and one at the Town Offices, fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 8th day of September the year Two Thousand Five.

Colleen A. Corona, Chair
John S. Haederle, Clerk
Charles P. King
Irwin M. Cohen
EASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Easton, Mass. September 12, 2005
By virtue hereof and as within directed, I have this day posted attested copies of this Warrant.

John D. Melin, Constable of Easton

A true record. Attest: *Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC,* Town Clerk

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AT YOUR SERVICE

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Animal Control Officer	508-230-3353
Assessors	508-230-0520
Board of Appeals	508-230-0590
Board of Health	508-230-0620
Board of Selectmen	508-230-0501
Building Department	508-230-0580
Collector	508-230-0610
Conservation Commission	508-230-0640
Council on Aging	508-230-0540
Department of Public Works	508-230-0800
Fire Department	508-230-3311
Food Pantry	508-230-0670
Housing Authority	508-238-4747
Planning Board	508-230-0630
Police Department	508-230-3322
Recreation Department	508-230-0650
Town Accountant	508-230-0560
Town Administrator	508-230-0510
Town Clerk	508-230-0530
Treasurer	508-230-0600
Veterans Services Department	508-230-0550
Water Department	508-230-0850
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H.H. Richardson School	508-230-3227
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Parkview School	508-230-3230

EASTON EMERGENCY
POLICE
FIRE
MUNICIPAL AMBULANCE

DIAL 911